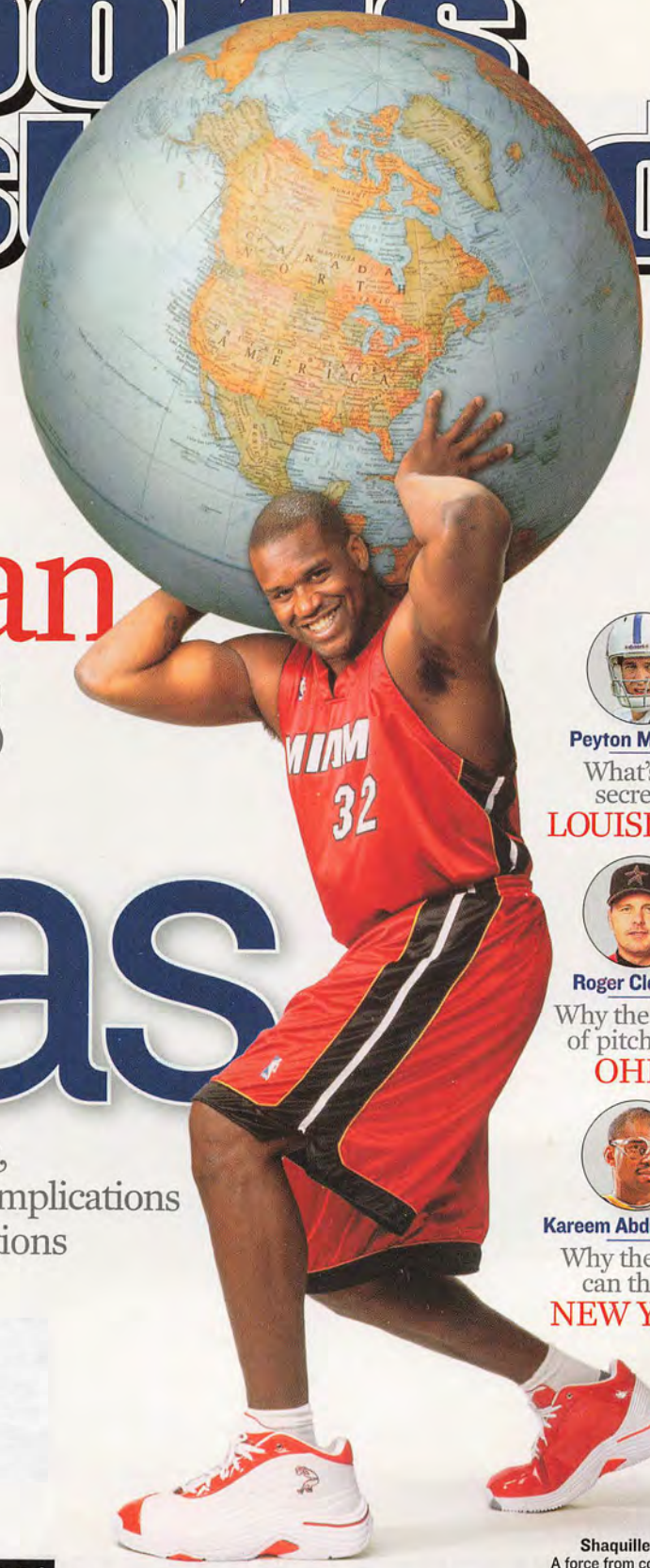
YEAR-END DOUBLE ISSUE

Sports Illustrated



The Great American Sports Atlas

32 Pages of Amazing Maps, Fascinating Facts, Sociological Implications and Cartographic Revelations

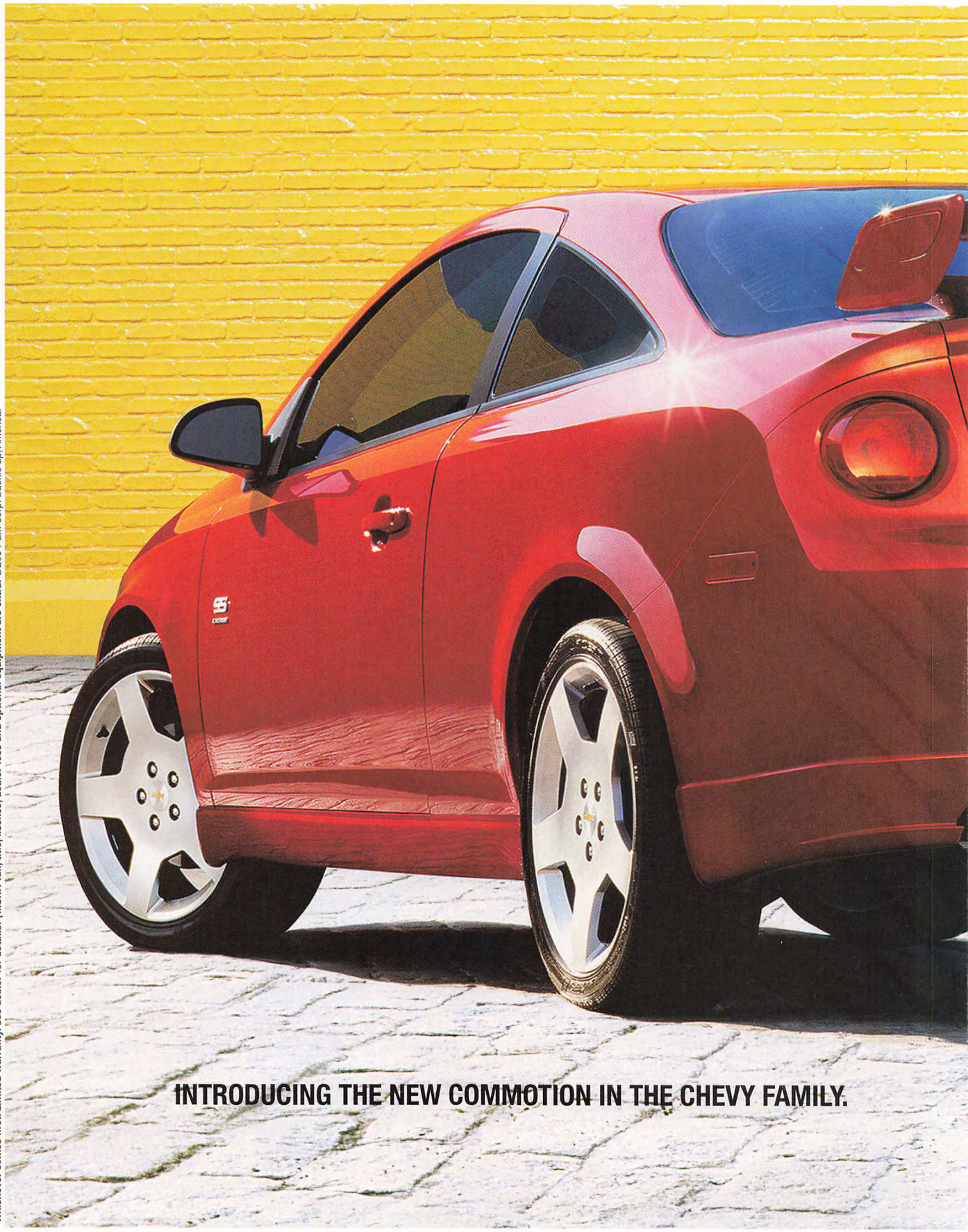
Peyton Manning
What's the secret in
LOUISIANA?

Roger Clemens
Why the cradle of pitchers is
OHIO

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
Why the NBA can thank
NEW YORK

Shaquille O'Neal
A force from coast to coast

DEC. 27, 2004–JAN. 3, 2005 www.SI.com | AOL Keyword: Sports Illustrated



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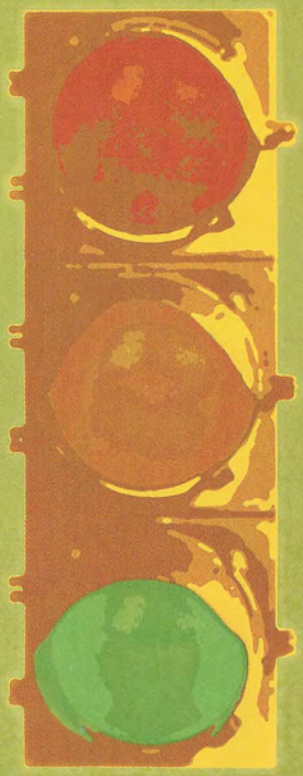

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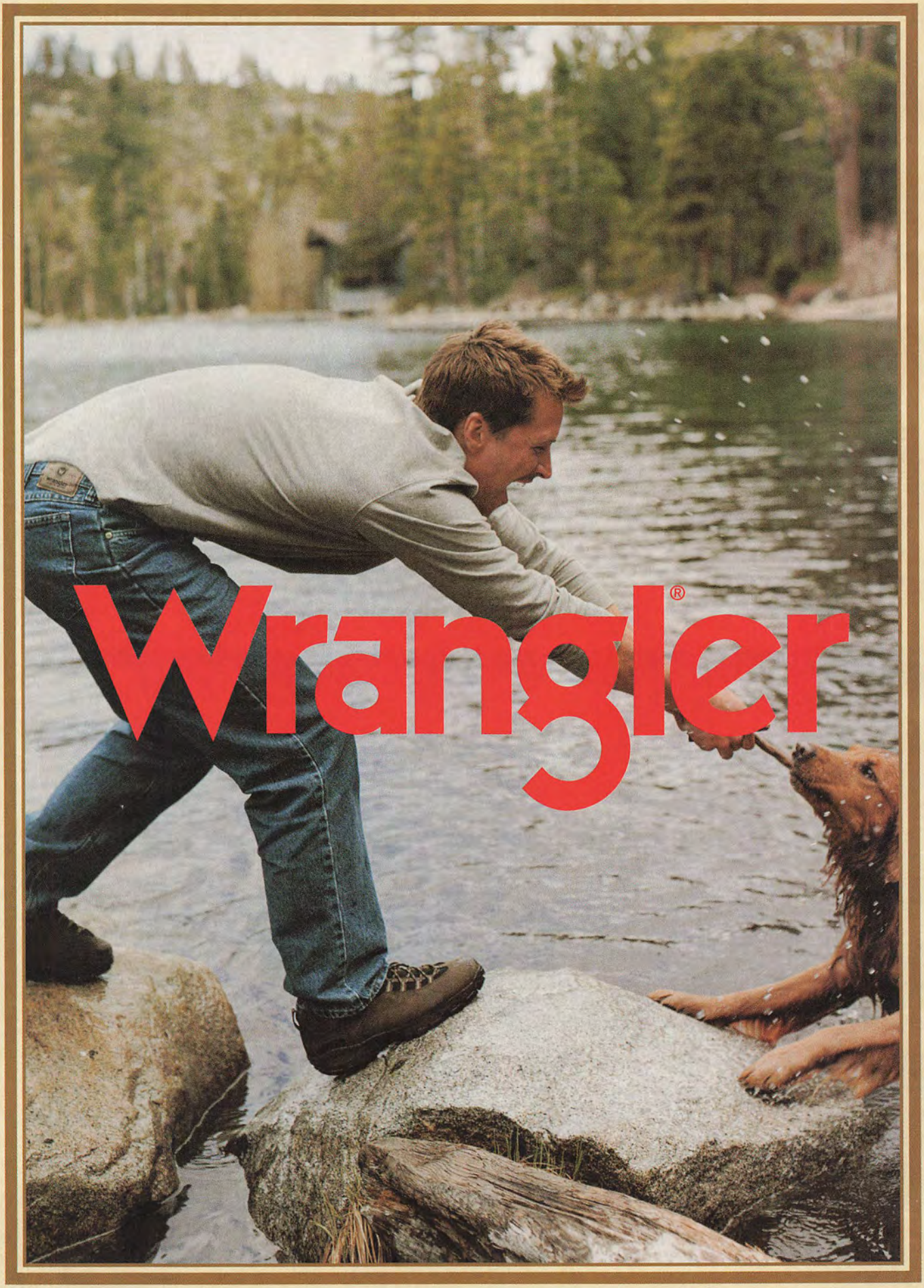
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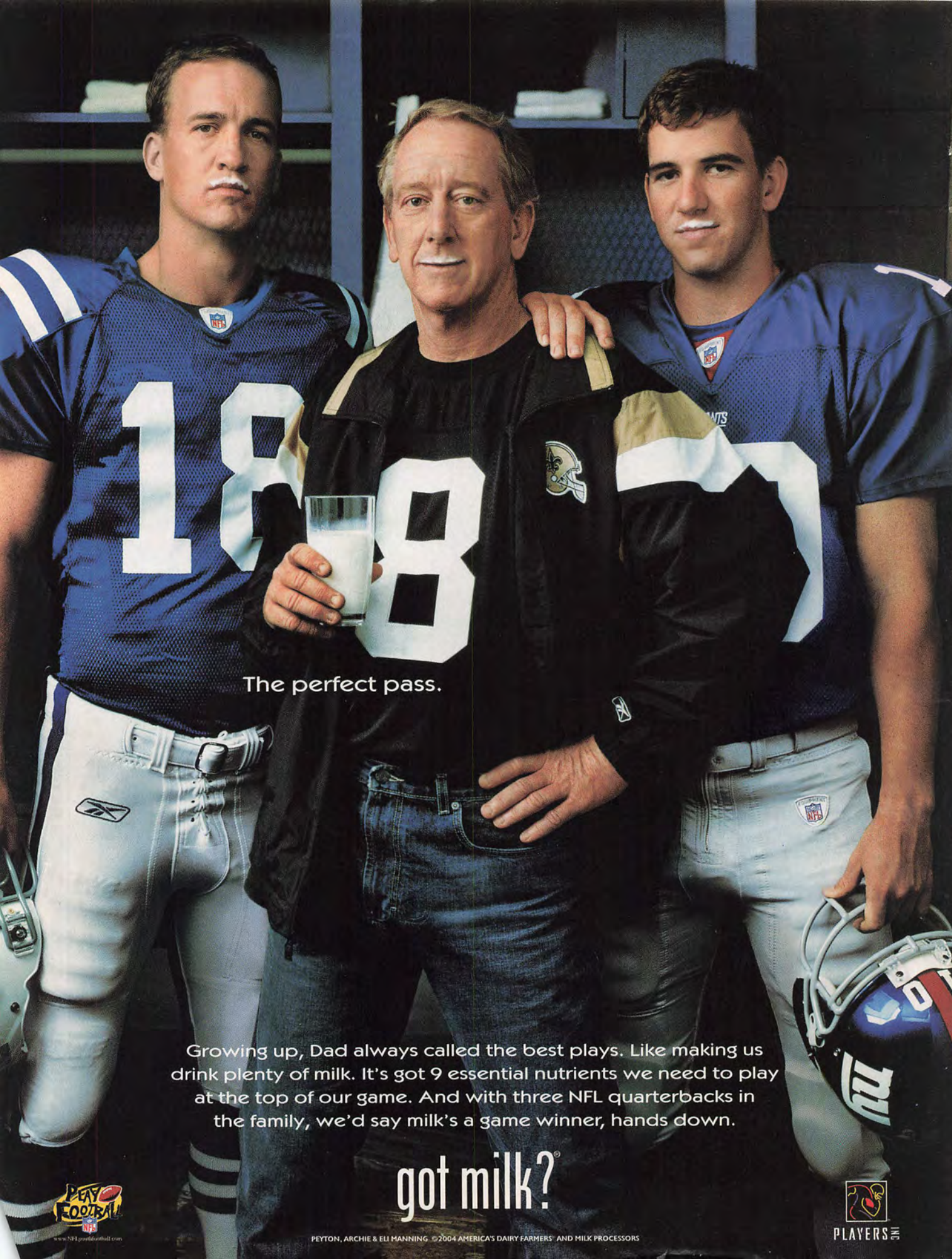
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Sports Illustrated
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VOLUME 101, NO. 25

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER GREGOIRE
INSET PHOTOS: Preston Mack/US Presswire (Manning); Fernando Medina/WireImage.com (Clemens); Rick Stewart/Getty Images (Abdul-Jabbar)

SI Extra

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To Our Readers Please note that this is a **double issue.** The next SI will be dated Jan. 10, 2005. For news and scores, go to **si.com.**

Revisit more of the top stories, memorable moments and compelling images of 2004, and check out sport-by-sport story lines for 2005 from SI's experts on each beat, at si.com/scorecard. SI.com

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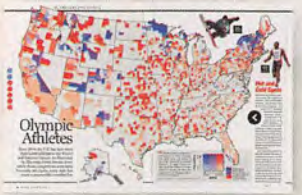
SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

The Great American Sports Atlas



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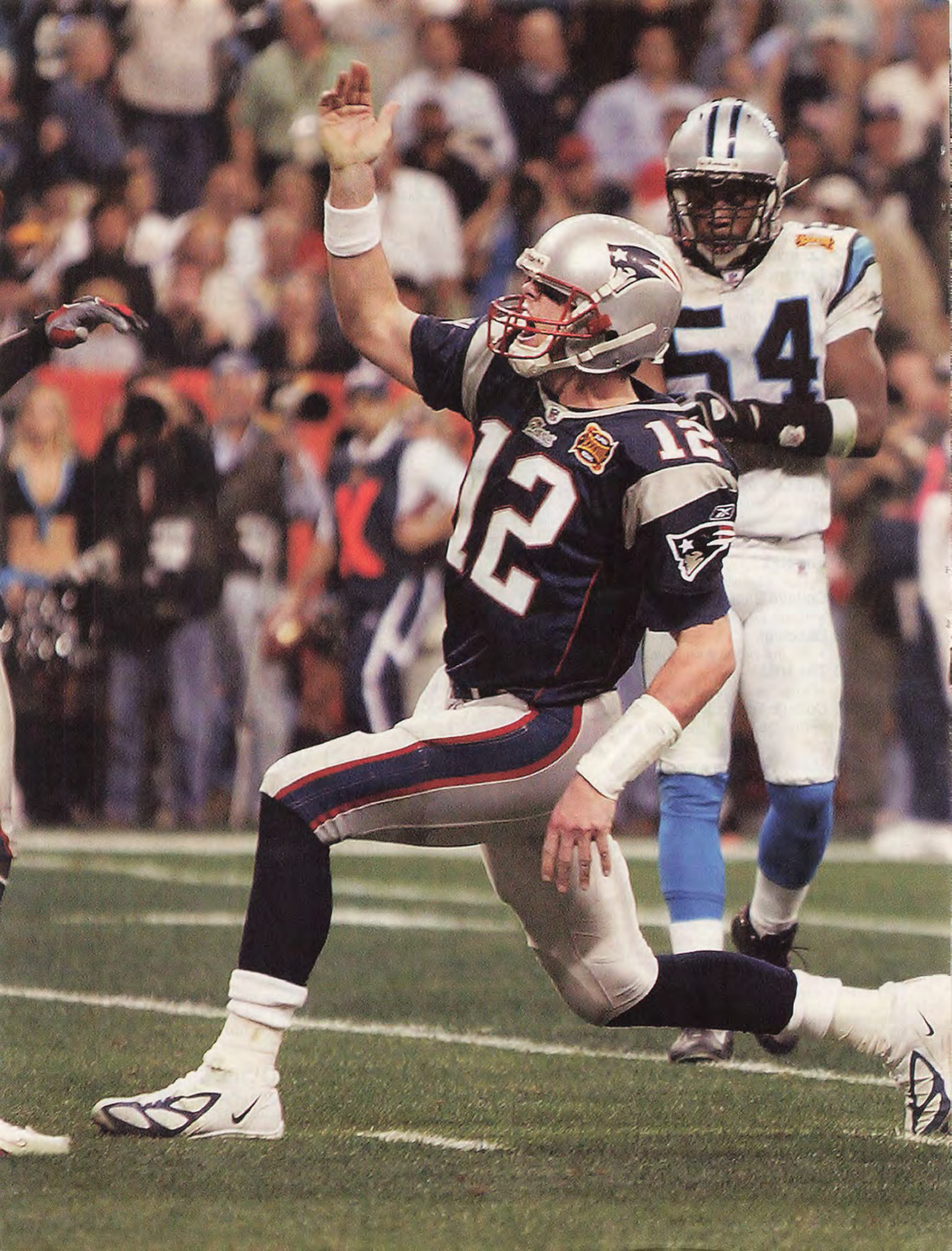
74 Farewell
Even as new stars were born in 2004—welcome, Michael Phelps, Ben Roethlisberger, Maria Sharapova, Smarty Jones—others, such as Pat Tillman *(right)*, went dark. Each of the athletes, coaches and innovators who died left a mark: some great, some small, all indelible

86 Who Would Pros Pay to See?
In the ultimate peer review SI polled more than 600 players from the Big Three pro sports to find out which athletes they admire most. Some names, like Tiger Woods *(right)*, were expected. Other choices—and choice comments—were not
BY JACK MCCALLUM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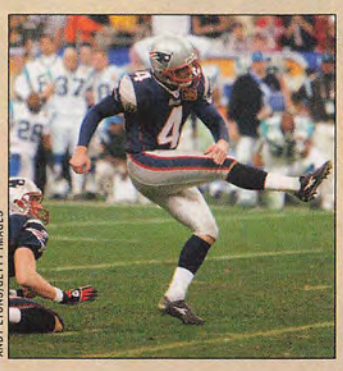

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Leading Off

The Super Bowl: Patriot Act

SI's gallery of 2004 champions opens with Patriots quarterback Tom Brady signaling a first down during Super Bowl XXXVIII. Brady led New England to a thrilling 32–29 win over the Carolina Panthers that was sealed by Adam Vinatieri's field goal (inset) in the final seconds.

Photograph by Bob Rosato

For daily Web-only Leading Off galleries, go to **SI.com/scorecard**.

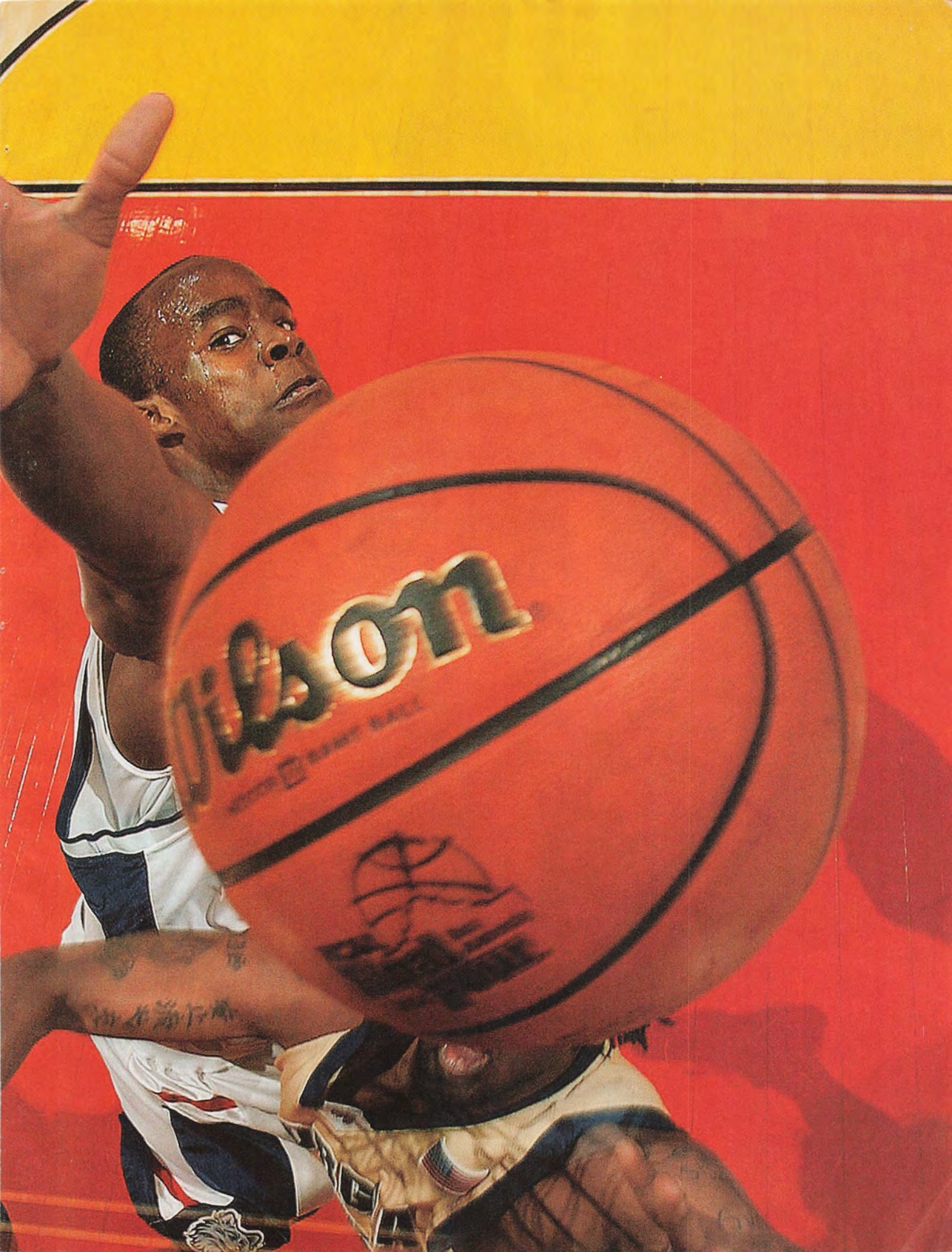
March Madness

Rejection Form

In his last game for UConn, Emeka Okafor rose to block a shot by Georgia Tech's Clarence Moore during the Huskies' 82–73 victory in the NCAA final. UConn's women, led by guard Diana Taurasi (inset), also won the NCAA championship—their third straight—with a 70–61 victory over archrival Tennessee.

Photograph by Rich Clarkson/NCAA Photos

BOB STOWELL


Wilson

The Masters

Soar Winner

After sinking his putt on the 18th green at Augusta to secure, at long last, his first major victory, Phil Mickelson leaped in the air and shouted in unison with the overjoyed crowd. Tiger Woods (inset) hit into the bushes during the first round and finished the tournament 11 strokes behind the victor.

Photograph by Dave Martin/AP

TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Tour de France

Basso Master

Lance Armstrong stayed ahead of Italy's Ivan Basso, one of his chief rivals, on his way to victory in stage 13. Armstrong went on to win stage 17, in the Alps (inset), and his record sixth straight Tour. Basso finished third.

Photograph by
Franck Faugere/DPPI

PETER DEJONG/AP

Summer Olympics

Iron Butterfly

Michael Phelps of the U.S. displays the powerful technique that carried him to gold medals in the 100-meter (inset) and the 200-meter butterfly at the 2004 Games in Athens. Phelps tied a record by winning eight medals—four in individual events—in a single Olympics: six gold and two bronze.

Photograph by Simon Bruty

HEINZ KLUETMEIER

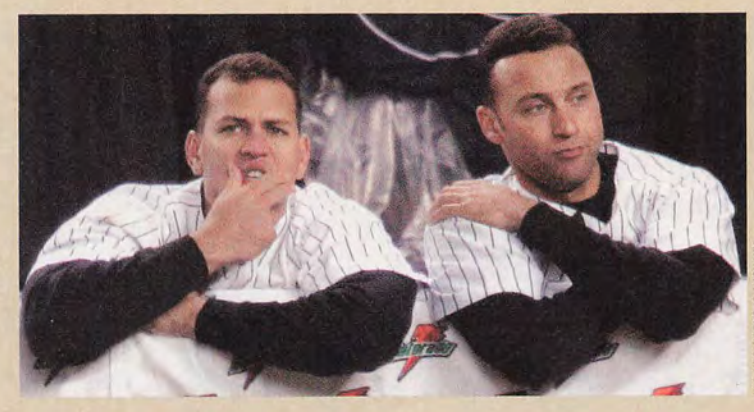
speedo

World Series

Idiots' Delight

The Boston Red Sox, a self-styled "bunch of idiots," exulted in their sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals. Earlier the Sox had stunned New York Yankees Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter (inset) with their historic ALCS comeback.

Photograph by
David E. Klutho



ANTHONY J. CAUSI/ICON SMI

MUELLER
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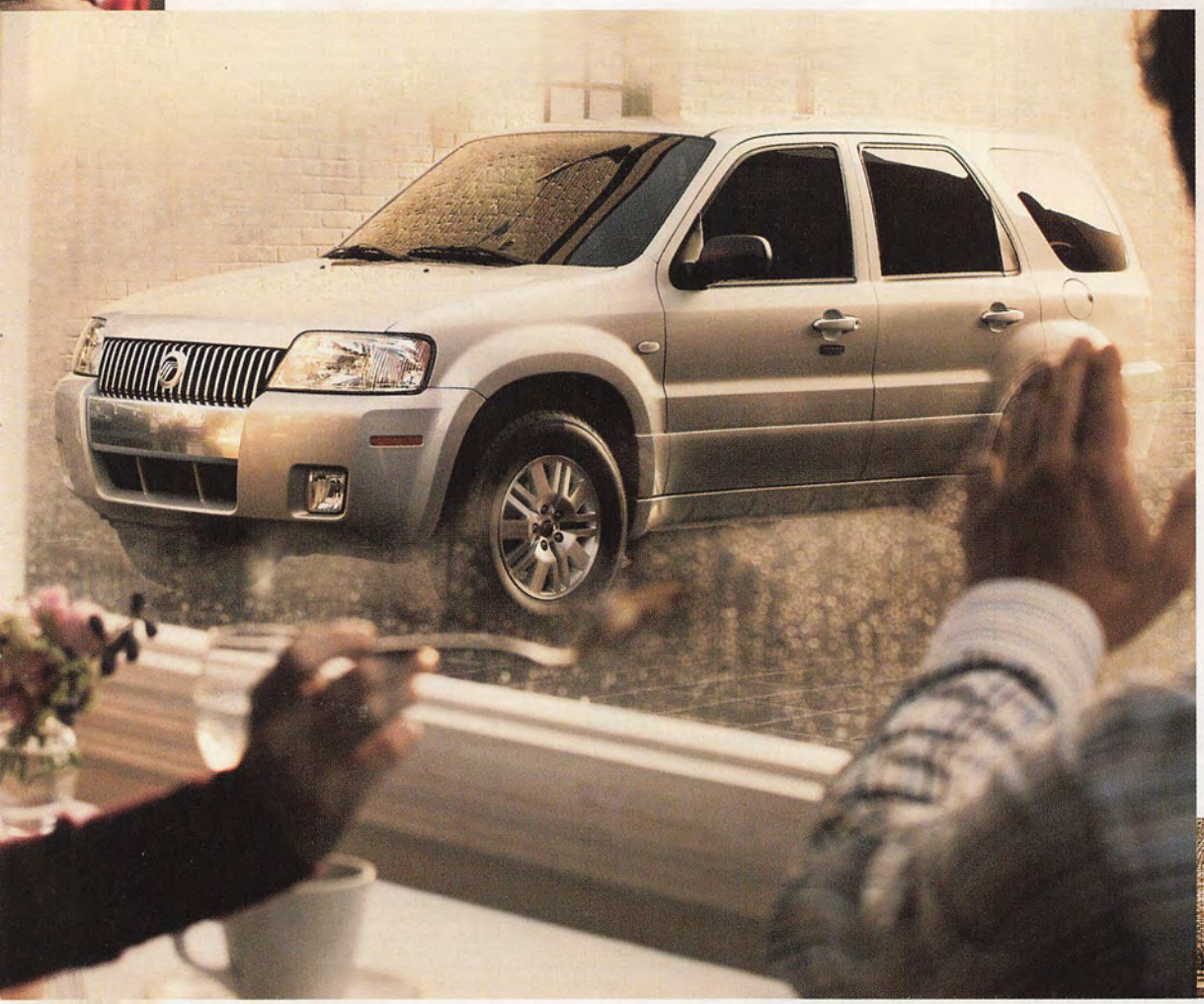
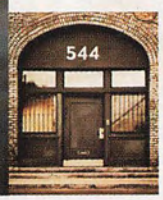
Introducing Mercury Mariner

The gleam of Mariner's 16" aluminum wheels first caught his eye. As Bob cleared the view, Mariner's jeweled assets came into focus. Expressive taillamps. Alluring lines that turned gracefully into the distinctive satin-aluminum grille. Mariner's striking stance had indeed caught Bob's eye, despite Carla's best efforts to the contrary.

CARLA'S BODY LANGUAGE was sending out subtle cues. Unfortunately for Carla, so were Mariner's well-defined curves.





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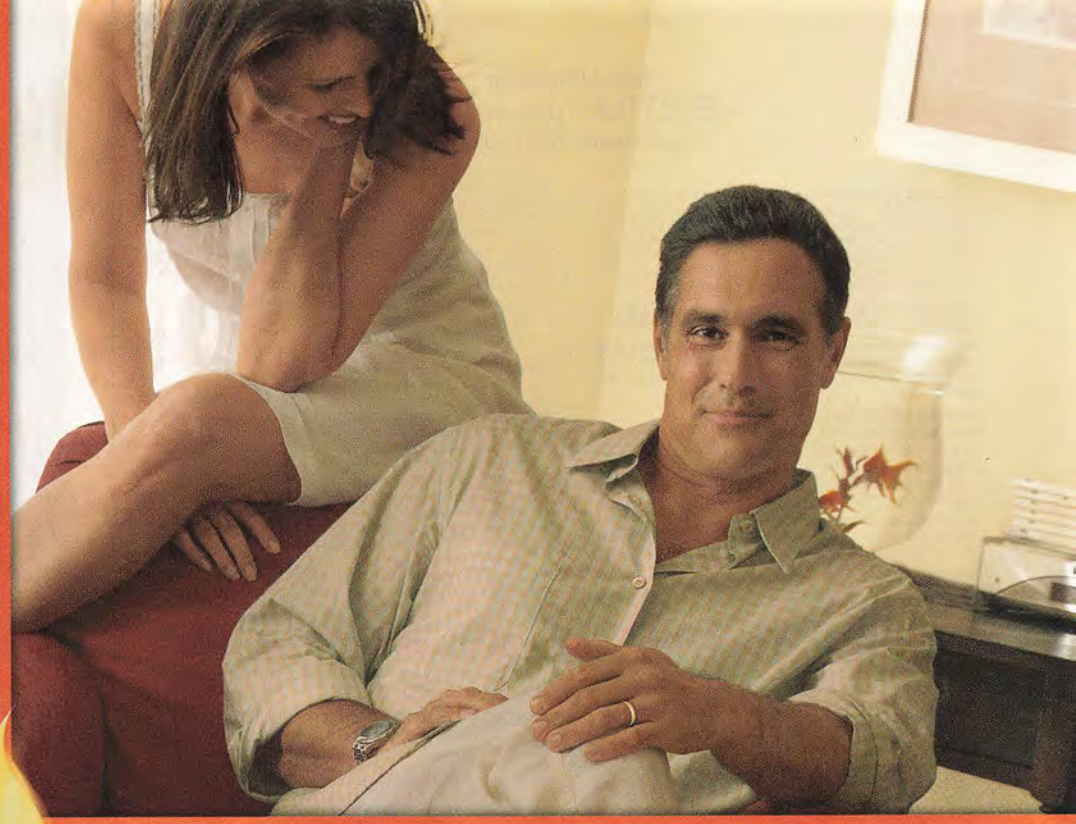

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For most men, LEVITRA*

- **Works to improve erection quality**
  Improves duration, hardness, and the ability to attain an erection
- **Works fast**
  No other oral ED treatment is proven to work faster
- **Works time and again**

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*Individual results may vary.

Patient Information

LEVITRA® (Luh-VEE-Trah)

(vardenafil HCl) Tablets

08669034IP 8/03

Read the Patient Information about LEVITRA before you start taking it and again each time you get a refill. There may be new information. You may also find it helpful to share this information with your partner. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor. You and your doctor should talk about LEVITRA when you start taking it and at regular checkups. If you do not understand the information, or have questions, talk with your doctor or pharmacist.

WHAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT LEVITRA?

LEVITRA can cause your blood pressure to drop suddenly to an unsafe level if it is taken with certain other medicines. With a sudden drop in blood pressure, you could get dizzy, faint, or have a heart attack or stroke.

Do not take LEVITRA if you:

- **take any medicines called "nitrates."**
- **use recreational drugs called "poppers" like amyl nitrate and butyl nitrate.**
- **take medicines called alpha-blockers.**

(See "Who Should Not Take LEVITRA?")

Tell all your healthcare providers that you take LEVITRA. If you need emergency medical care for a heart problem, it will be important for your healthcare provider to know when you last took LEVITRA.

WHAT IS LEVITRA?

LEVITRA is a prescription medicine taken by mouth for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED) in men.

ED is a condition where the penis does not harden and expand when a man is sexually excited, or when he cannot keep an erection. A man who has trouble getting or keeping an erection should see his doctor for help if the condition bothers him. LEVITRA may help a man with ED get and keep an erection when he is sexually excited.

LEVITRA does not:

- cure ED
- increase a man's sexual desire
- protect a man or his partner from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Speak to your doctor about ways to guard against sexually transmitted diseases.
- serve as a male form of birth control

LEVITRA is only for men with ED. LEVITRA is not for women or children. LEVITRA must be used only under a doctor's care.

HOW DOES LEVITRA WORK?

When a man is sexually stimulated, his body's normal physical response is to increase blood flow to his penis. This results in an erection. LEVITRA helps increase blood flow to the penis and may help men with ED get and keep an erection satisfactory for sexual activity. Once a man has completed sexual activity, blood flow to his penis decreases, and his erection goes away.

WHO CAN TAKE LEVITRA?

Talk to your doctor to decide if LEVITRA is right for you.

LEVITRA has been shown to be effective in men over the age of 18 years who have erectile dysfunction, including men with diabetes or who have undergone prostatectomy.

WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE LEVITRA?

Do not take LEVITRA if you:

- **take any medicines called "nitrates"** (See "What important information should you know about LEVITRA?"). Nitrates are commonly used to treat angina. Angina is a symptom of heart disease and can cause pain in your chest, jaw, or down your arm.

  Medicines called nitrates include nitroglycerin that is found in tablets, sprays, ointments, pastes, or patches. Nitrates can also be found in other medicines such as isosorbide dinitrate or isosorbide mononitrate. Some recreational drugs called "poppers" also contain nitrates, such as amyl nitrate and butyl nitrate. Do not use LEVITRA if you are using these drugs. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if any of your medicines are nitrates.
- **take medicines called "alpha-blockers."** Alpha-blockers are sometimes prescribed for prostate problems or high blood pressure. If LEVITRA is taken with alpha-blockers, your blood pressure could suddenly drop to an unsafe level. You could get dizzy and faint.
- **you have been told by your healthcare provider to not have sexual activity because of health problems.** Sexual activity can put an extra strain on your heart, especially if your heart is already weak from a heart attack or heart disease.
- **are allergic to LEVITRA or any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient in LEVITRA is called vardenafil. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DISCUSS WITH YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING LEVITRA?

Before taking LEVITRA, tell your doctor about all your medical problems, including if you:

- **have heart problems** such as angina, heart failure, irregular heartbeats, or have had a heart attack. Ask your doctor if it is safe for you to have sexual activity.
- **have low blood pressure or** have high blood pressure that is not controlled
- **have had a stroke**
- **or any family members have a rare heart condition known as prolongation of the QT interval (long QT syndrome)**
- **have liver problems**
- **have kidney problems and require dialysis**
- **have retinitis pigmentosa,** a rare genetic (runs in families) eye disease
- **have stomach ulcers**
- **have a bleeding problem**
- **have a deformed penis shape** or Peyronie's disease
- **have had an erection that lasted more than 4 hours**
- **have blood cell problems** such as sickle cell anemia, multiple myeloma, or leukemia

CAN OTHER MEDICATIONS AFFECT LEVITRA?

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LEVITRA and other medicines may affect each other. Always check with your doctor before starting or stopping any medicines. Especially tell your doctor if you take any of the following:

- medicines called nitrates (See "What important information should you know about LEVITRA?")
- medicines called alpha-blockers. These include Hytrin® (terazosin HCl), Flomax® (tamsulosin HCl), Cardura® (doxazosin mesylate), Minipress® (prazosin HCl) or Uroxatral® (alfuzosin HCl).
- medicines that treat abnormal heartbeat. These include quinidine, procainamide, amiodarone and sotalol.
- ritonavir (Norvir®) or indinavir sulfate (Crixivan®)
- ketoconazole or itraconazole (such as Nizoral® or Sporanox®)
- erythromycin
- other medicines or treatments for ED

HOW SHOULD YOU TAKE LEVITRA?

Take LEVITRA exactly as your doctor prescribes. LEVITRA comes in different doses (2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg). For most men, the recommended starting dose is 10 mg. **Take LEVITRA no more than once a day.** Doses should be taken at least 24 hours apart. Some men can only take a low dose of LEVITRA because of medical conditions or medicines they take. Your doctor will prescribe the dose that is right for you.

- If you are older than 65 or have liver problems, your doctor may start you on a lower dose of LEVITRA.
- If you are taking certain other medicines your doctor may prescribe a lower starting dose and limit you to one dose of LEVITRA in a 72-hour (3 days) period.

Take 1 LEVITRA tablet about 1 hour (60 minutes) before sexual activity. Some form of sexual stimulation is needed for an erection to happen with LEVITRA. LEVITRA may be taken with or without meals.

Do not change your dose of LEVITRA without talking to your doctor. Your doctor may lower your dose or raise your dose, depending on how your body reacts to LEVITRA.

If you take too much LEVITRA, call your doctor or emergency room right away.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LEVITRA?

The most common side effects with LEVITRA are headache, flushing, stuffy or runny nose, indigestion, upset stomach, or dizziness. These side effects usually go away after a few hours. Call your doctor if you get a side effect that bothers you or one that will not go away.

LEVITRA may uncommonly cause:

- **an erection that won't go away (priapism).** If you get an erection that lasts more than 4 hours, get medical help right away. Priapism must be treated as soon as possible or lasting damage can happen to your penis including the inability to have erections.
- **vision changes,** such as seeing a blue tinge to objects or having difficulty telling the difference between the colors blue and green.

These are not all the side effects of LEVITRA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD LEVITRA BE STORED?

- Store LEVITRA at room temperature between 59° and 86° F (15° to 30° C).
- **Keep LEVITRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEVITRA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those described in patient information leaflets. Do not use LEVITRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give LEVITRA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about LEVITRA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about LEVITRA that is written for health professionals.

For more information you can also visit www.LEVITRA.com, or call 1-866-LEVITRA.

WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF LEVITRA?

Active Ingredient: vardenafil hydrochloride

Inactive Ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, crospovidone, colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, titanium dioxide, yellow ferric oxide, and red ferric oxide.

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Crixivan (indinavir sulfate) is a trademark of Merck & Co., Inc.

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Flomax (tamsulosin HCl) is a trademark of Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

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REALsports
with Bryant Gumbel

A LOOK BACK
AT THE BEST OF 2004

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED®
FEATURE:

MARCUS DIXON
FROM 10 YEARS IN PRISON
TO FREEDOM IN ONE DAY

JAYSON
WILLIAMS
THE ACCOUNT OF THE
LIMO DRIVER'S SHOOTING
FROM A MAN
WHO WAS THERE

KYLE
MAYNARD
A HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLER EXCELS EVEN
WITH NO ARMS OR LEGS

PAT
SUMMERALL
HIS RETURN FROM
ALCOHOLISM AND A
LIVER TRANSPLANT

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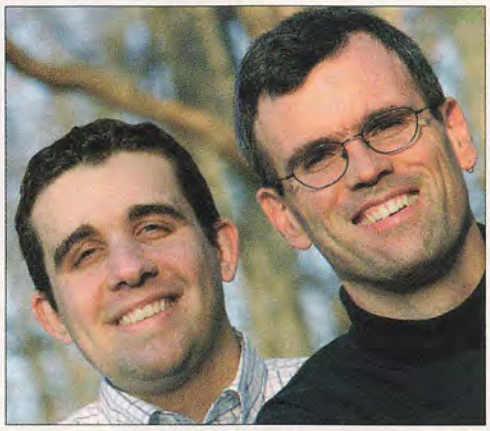
A Whole Lot of Latitude

SPORTS FANS have long heard that western Pennsylvania—birthplace of Joe Namath, Joe Montana and Dan Marino—is the cradle of quarterbacks, but is that really true? And if so, is there a similar breeding ground for baseball's big boppers—the guys who've hit more than 300 homers? Jim Miller of International Mapping Associates in Ellicott City, Md., did not pursue cartography in hopes of answering such questions, but for three months he and his boss, Alex Tait, have been working with the SI staff to create maps that reveal fascinating truths about sports. To say the Great American Sport Atlas *(page 96)* was a labor of love for them is to say that NASCAR drivers tend to come from the red states. "In terms of topic and the variety," says Miller, "this is the best assignment I'm ever going to get."



ALL OVER THE MAPS Miller (left) and Tait kept the Atlas project moving in the right direction.

The 25-year-old Miller, a native of Bellmawr, N.J., and a fan of the Phillies, the Eagles and the Flyers, especially enjoyed making SI's team-migration map, which traces pro franchises as they moved about, shedding cities and nicknames. Tait, from Colebrook, Conn., says his favorite map is the one showing the relationship between golf course density and median household income. "Golf is not even my game," says Tait, 40, an avid climber who has drawn maps for *National Geographic Traveler* and *Backpacker* magazines. "But I love the picture of American society that the map presents."

A SENSE OF PLACE Woo worked the data.

WRITER-REPORTER Andrea Woo was a natural choice to work on the Atlas. As a fifth-grader at the Upper School in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Woo took second place in her school's National Geography Bee. "I made an impressive run," says Woo, 25, "but in the end I lost out to a sixth-grader."

Woo, who joined the magazine in 2001 from Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, served as the lead researcher on the Atlas, sifting through a mountain of data from the NCAA, NFL, NBA and other organizations, and even creating a database of 7,035 U.S.-born Olympic athletes so they could be mapped by birthplace. "What I've learned from this process," she says, "is how to use Microsoft Excel."

JOHN HENDRIX, 28, who drew the map that depicts America from a sports junkie's perspective *(page 115)*, is coming off a solid stretch as an illustrator (he has worked for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* and *Rolling Stone*), but an awful year as a fan. The Kansas alum and St. Louis native saw his Jayhawks upset by Georgia Tech in the Elite Eight of the NCAA basketball tournament and his Cardinals swept in the World Series. He says he was cheered by the SI project, which allowed him to put his favorite mascots on the map. "In terms of sports," says Hendrix, "this was my payback."

FANS-EYE VIEW Hendrix had fun.

MARK WIELAND (TOP); CHUCK SOLOMON (WOD); RYANN COOLEY (HENDRIX)

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Sox-ual Healing

From the moment I woke up on the morning of Oct. 28, I've been searching. Searching for something to convince me that the Red Sox were finally World Series champions, for something that would fully allow me to feel, undeniably, that 86 years worth of torture and sadness had ended for millions of people around the world. I bought every area newspaper and poured through dozens of articles about the victory. I watched hours of postgame interviews and spent way too much money on photographs and posters. I even watched the victory parade and the MLB World Series DVD, and those came close but didn't quite do the trick. Well, I finally found my something. Tom Verducci's *Sportsmen of the Year* (Dec. 6) is a beautiful article, written with respect, kindness and admiration for not only Red Sox Nation but also all sports fans everywhere. It is everything that is right about sports. Thank you for letting this lifelong Red Sox fan finally feel it.

Charlie Wood
Westport, Mass.

As an avid cycling fan and LIVESTRONG-wearing husband of a cancer survivor, I was so dismayed you passed over Lance Armstrong as Sportsman of the Year that I turned the award show off when the winners were announced. Then, after resisting at first, I read Verducci's article. It is a story so rich with tortured perseverance, hope against hope and finally the realization of a collective, lifelong dream that it transcends sports and becomes not a story about an athlete or a team but an allegory for the triumph of the human spirit. You made an absolutely brilliant selection.

Chris Youhn, Webster, Fla.

I would like to thank you for Robert Silvers's remarkable pictorial tribute to the Boston Red Sox. Only with two thousand pictures could your cover even begin to encompass the phenomenon that is Red Sox Nation.

Kyle Noble, East Greenwich, R.I.

Until Oct. 27 I had assumed that the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey gold medal would be the crowning moment of this fan's rooting existence. Wrong again. To many of us in Red Sox Nation—maybe even most of us—the 2004 Boston Red Sox are not merely the Sportsmen of the Year; they are our Sportsmen of a Lifetime.

John Hamblin, Medway, Mass.

Halfway through your article I realized that it was not the Red Sox team that was being honored as Sportsmen of the Year but rather the entire Red Sox Nation.

Paul Agathen, St. Louis

Shouldn't there be a limit on the number of times the Red Sox appear on your cover in one year? As a Yankees fan, reading SI has become like seeing my ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend every week. Don't make me throw away another good magazine.

Sean Cooney, Buffalo

Wow. SI selected a team that won one championship in 86 years as its Sportsmen of the Year. Imagine what you'd do if a team ever won 26 championships in 86 years?

John Souchack
Scarsdale, N.Y.

Next year I hope you consider athletes who have transcended the world of sports in a positive way. Lance Armstrong, a champion on the grueling race course who is doing more for cancer awareness than any other individual on the planet, would have clearly been a better choice. The Red Sox should clean up their act, take a bath, get a haircut and stop abusing alcohol *before* their games.

Henry Howard, Lafayette, Ind.

Why not Diana Taurasi for Sportswoman of the Year? She led UConn to a national title, won a gold medal in Athens and was named Rookie of the Year in the WNBA.

Cayleigh Griffin, Stamford, Conn.

With everything Barry Bonds continues to do, including his seventh MVP award this year, at the age of 40, it would have been nice to see him recognized as the Sportsman. And I'm a Dodgers fan!

Ashvin Lad, Indianapolis

Please count this 50-year Red Sox fan and former Boston taxi driver as one who thinks the Sportsman of the Year should have been Pat Tillman.

Peter Wawro, Santa Ana, Calif.

The Red Sox are a great story, but Tillman was a hero.

Kevin Russell, Valparaiso, Ind.

After threatening to cancel my subscription, this die-hard Yankees fan was finally talked out of it by my wife. She reminded me how much enjoyment we get from reading about people wanting to cancel their subscriptions after your Swimsuit Issue. Not that I look at the Swimsuit Issue, but I do read the letters to the editor a few weeks later.

Dell Blank, Little River, S.C.

A Fan to the End

My 95-year-old mom, Kathryn Stoddard, who was featured in Tom Verducci's Sportsmen of the Year essay on Red Sox fans, passed away peacefully this morning [Dec. 10], her Red Sox cap on the stand next to her bed (she asked for it a few days ago!) and her SPORTS ILLUSTRATED on the nearby coffee table. The SI article made a wonderful last adventure for a mother and daughter. I will always be grateful to you all.

Roberta Rogers, New Market, Va.

REMEMBERING KATHRYN Mother and daughter shared a last adventure.

PHOTOMOSAIC BY ROBERT SILVERS/WWW.PHOTOMOSAIC.COM (COVER); JAY L. CLENDENIN/POLARIS

If You Don't Want the Swimsuit Issue

The annual SI Swimsuit Issue will be published in February. If you're a subscriber and would prefer *not* to receive it, call our customer service center toll-free at 1-866-228-1175 and let us know. If you choose to not receive the SI Swimsuit issue, we will extend your subscription by one issue.

Passing the Buck

I appreciated Rick Reilly's nomination of Bill Buckner as the true Sportsman of the Year (LIFE OF REILLY, Dec. 6). People forget Buckner was a gifted and speedy outfielder until he injured his ankle. Buckner, your fans in L.A. have you covered (especially the guys on my 1975 Arcadia High baseball team).

Kurt Osenbaugh, Los Angeles

Reilly's sob story about Billy Buck doesn't fly for this Red Sox fan as long as he makes joint appearances with Mookie Wilson and gets paid to sign pictures of his gaffe. If he really thinks it's unfair for Sox fans to harp on his misplay, he shouldn't perpetuate it by creating trophies for gloating Mets fans.

Michael J. Sage, Clifton, N.J.

Secretary of Defense

It is hard to fathom how *Call It the Twiceman* (Dec. 6) didn't even mention the true college player of the year. Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson is the most complete and most dominating player in college football this year, winner of the Butkus and Nagurski awards. He has the best combination of speed, power and leadership of any college linebacker in decades. He never had less than a great game, never came off the field because of an injury, made game-turning plays throughout the year and played biggest in the biggest games. Too bad that the Heisman award really recognizes only the *offensive* player of the year.

Rob Kessler, Palacios, Texas

Paint by Numbers

The story on paintball, *Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?* (Dec. 6), mentioned that it's mostly teenagers who compete. Well, right up to my mid-60s I played the game, along with two sons and a stepson, on whatever team was available. I'm 70 now and still planning to get out there next spring.

Marty Friedman, Morristown, N.J.

My eyeball and eye socket were recently destroyed by someone playing a "harmless" prank with a paintball gun. Parents should remember that paintball guns are exactly that: guns and not toys.

Ryan Gerulf, Moscow, Idaho

The White Stuff

It is unfortunate that although Jeremy Wariner was able to win the gold in the 400 meters, everyone wants to discuss the color of his skin—white (*The Color of Speed*, Dec. 6). The only colors that should matter were the ones that he draped around himself after winning: red, white and blue. Hopefully, we will be blessed with more athletes like Jeremy whose ability and attitude transcend racial barriers and lead us as a society to see past those barriers as we never have before.

Jared Young, Spanish Fork, Utah

How many Wariners are out there? I guarantee there are more people like me who deal every day with more damaging stereotypes than the one that says white men can't run fast. The difference is that Wariner's negative stereotypes go away when he takes off his spikes and trades his hip-hop gear for a new suit. My negative stereotypes, linked to my black skin, unfortunately, do not. Thanks for putting it in perspective.

David Combs, Silver Spring, Md.

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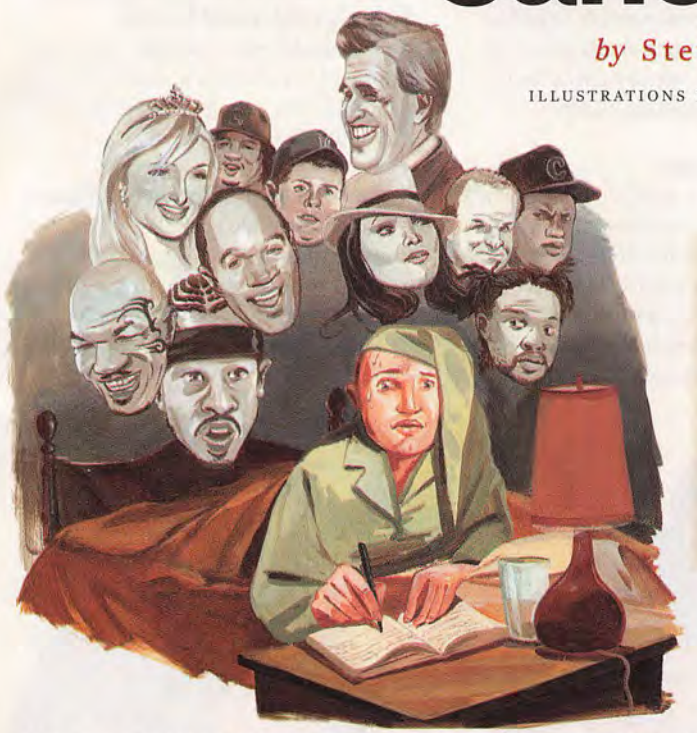
I Dream of Janet...

by Steve Rushin

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ZOHAR LAZAR



...and O.J. and A.I. and everyone else who did things more absurd or outrageous in 2004 than I could possibly imagine

Bring me the head of the guy who brought me the head of the Phillie Phanatic
A 37-year-old man was sentenced to two years' probation for allegedly stealing the head of the Phillie Phanatic and then trying to return it for a $5,000 reward.

Not well
Onstage at a charity telethon, legendary radio disc jockey Bruce (Cousin Brucie) Morrow cheerfully asked Roberto Clemente Jr., "How's your dad?"

Clemente died in '72
Pete Rose wrote in *My Prison Without Bars* that he was picked ahead of Clemente to start in an All-Star Game in the mid-'70s.

Mays retired in '73
Rose also boasted that he started ahead of Willie Mays in that game.

One more than Bill Clinton
North Korea's government-controlled media reported that Kim Jong Il shoots at least three holes in one every time he plays a round of golf.

Curse of the Gambinos
FBI documents claimed that reliever John Franco left New York Mets tickets for members of the Bonanno crime family.

What a tool
Boston Red Sox first base coach Lynn Jones injured an eye after losing control of a screwdriver while trying to open a box at his home.

And you thought the NHL lockout was the year's longest labor story
At the Tommy Hilfiger fashion show in New York City, Paris Hilton asked 24-year-old Venus Williams and her 23-year-old sister, Serena, "How many minutes apart were you born?"

Now he's crossed the line
DirecTV filed a federal lawsuit against O.J. Simpson alleging that he illegally unscrambled its satellite signal.

Of which Don King took $4.97
In U.S. bankruptcy court records Mike Tyson listed his earnings for November 2003 as $5.58.

To which Tyson promptly changed his name
The winning goal for Middlesborough in a 3–2 win over Manchester United in February was scored by Cameroonian striker Joseph-Desire Job.

Ice on sole
Reebok and Jacob the Jeweler introduced a diamond-encrusted Allen Iverson sneaker selling for $65,000.

Have you seen the price of sneakers?
Latrell Sprewell rejected a $29 million contract offer from the Timberwolves by noting, "I've got my family to feed."

Ask an English major why this is funny
At Wimbledon, NBC's Jimmy Roberts noted that British affection for Tim Henman is "like a Canterbury Tale: It is the best of times, and it is the worst of times."

Swift Boat Veterans for Heidi
With the Michigan–Michigan State game tied at 37, the ABC affiliate in Miami cut away to an anti–John Kerry documentary.

Vince Lombardo turned over in his grave
Kerry referred to the home of the Green Bay Packers as "Lambert Field."

I mean, *besides* me
While campaigning, Kerry said, "Who among us doesn't like NASCAR?"

How much for a threesome?
Three people were sentenced to 125 days' house arrest after strippers and prostitutes were provided to golfers at the Hidden Valley Golf Club in Norco, Calif.

SIMON BRUTY

The (produce) scales of justice
Western Kentucky's tomato-shaped mascot, Big Red, held a press conference in Rome to announce that the school was filing a $250 million lawsuit against an Italian media company whose satirical news show features a comic, Gabibbo, who looks alarmingly like Big Red.

Thus destroying Kobe's faith in the sanctity of marriage
Kobe Bryant accused Karl Malone of hitting on Bryant's wife, Vanessa.

What makes Sammy's nose run?
Sammy Sosa missed a month of the season after he injured his back sneezing.

Blatter infection
FIFA president Sepp Blatter said female players should wear tighter shorts to make women's soccer more popular.

Thus clinching Tampa's bid for the next women's World Cup
The six-year-old seats at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa faded in the sun from Buccaneers pewter and red to pewter and pink.

Tempest in a D cup
Justin Timberlake exposed one of Janet Jackson's breasts during halftime of the Super Bowl and blamed it on a "wardrobe malfunction."

Call Janet
Belgian professional soccer referee Jacky Temmerman quit after having his pants pulled down by a fan in mid-match, saying, "They can look for another idiot who is prepared to stand with his ass naked for 20 euros a game."

Fielder's choice
Padres pitcher Akinori Otsuka, distracted by a piece of paper thrown at him by an autograph seeker, was injured when he failed to catch a bat thrown by another autograph hound.

Gimme a C! Gimme a P! Gimme an R!
Hit in the calf by a stray bullet as the team bus traveled through Kansas City, Indians rookie pitcher Kyle Denney was saved from serious injury by the knee-high white boots of the USC cheerleader outfit he was wearing as part of a rookie hazing ritual.

My bad!
While filming a commercial, Brazilian soccer star Ronaldinho shattered a window of the 12th-century cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

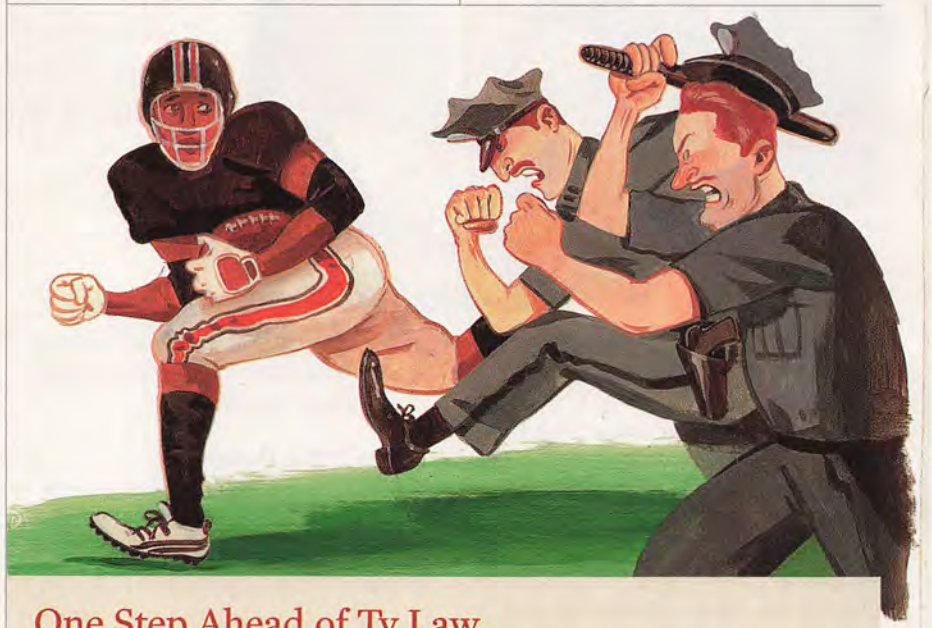
The Law is an ass
Pulled over for a traffic violation in Miami, Patriots cornerback Ty Law allegedly abandoned his Rolls-Royce and led police on a foot chase before being caught. One arresting officer said Law told them "not to touch him because he's a pro athlete." (Law denies saying this.)

Don't free Willie
During a five-hour visit to the University of Florida, football recruit Willie Williams allegedly hugged a woman without her consent, punched a man in a nightclub and discharged three fire extinguishers in his hotel. Williams enrolled at Miami.

This also works on Willie Williams
Dartmouth crew coaches were attacked by a crazed river otter that boarded their boat during varsity practice, but they fought off the "devilish creature" with paddles and a megaphone.

The hard part was prying it from Santa's cold, dead fingers
A 14-year-old boy in Orange, Calif., was trapped overnight in a chimney from which he was trying to retrieve an errant football.

It was won by the Brown noseguard
A reader told *New York Post* columnist Phil Mushnick that he'd seen an ABC closed-caption scroll identifying linebacker Derrick Johnson of Texas as a finalist for college football's BUTT KISS AWARD.



One Step Ahead of Ty Law
After returning a kick for a touchdown against North Carolina, Marquis Weeks of Virginia said, "That was just instinct. Kind of like running from the cops."

The notorious D.O.G.
Ron Artest asked the Pacers for time off to promote a rap album.

So everything worked out in the end
After Artest punched a fan in the stands in Detroit, he was suspended for the season, at which time he began promoting a rap album.

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Who says Wal-Mart pays low wages?

The University of Missouri changed the name of Paige Sports Arena when a college roommate of Elizabeth Paige Laurie said she was paid $20,000 to write term papers for the Wal-Mart heiress.

Or so he surmised from hours and hours of illegally unscrambled Court TV coverage

O.J. Simpson told Greta Van Susteren that he thought Kobe Bryant was innocent of sexual-assault charges.

Urine good hands

Chicago Cubs leftfielder Moises Alou, who doesn't wear batting gloves, revealed that he urinates on his hands to harden them.

Angry fans thought Samson Night was a suitcase giveaway

The Triple A Nashville Sounds gave away religious-themed bobblehead dolls of Moses, Samson and Noah.

The guy who won had no proof of insurance

NASCAR rookie Scott Wimmer finished third at the Daytona 500 even though he didn't have a driver's license, which was suspended after a DUI charge.

Losing isn't in my vocabulary, and neither are hundreds of thousands of other words

After taking over as president of the New York Knicks, Isiah Thomas gave coach Don Chaney a vote of confidence, saying, "He's got great stuff. His defensive stuff is solid. His offensive stuff is exceptional."

Stuff happens

Days later, two hours before tip-off of a game against the Orlando Magic, Thomas fired Chaney, who was then escorted—with his wife—out of Madison Square Garden.

How was *your* day, dear?

One of Chaney's assistants, Brendan Malone, who was also fired that night, was driving home from the Garden when his Lincoln Navigator was broadsided and totaled.

Da bail was set at $500

Chester Brewer, who played Da Bull—the mascot of the Chicago Bulls—was arrested with six ounces of marijuana on his person. "He was not dressed as a bull at the time of his arrest," reported the Associated Press.

Further evidence of links between Saddam and Al-Leiter

New York City staged a mock terrorist attack at Shea Stadium, where a fake weapon of mass destruction went off.

It *is* the fastest way down

The hiking magazine *Trail* instructed readers on how to descend Ben Nevis, Britain's tallest peak, in low visibility. Alas, those instructions would have led hikers to step off a cliff.

Worst seat in the house

At a Maryland Terrapins basketball game, off-duty Baltimore cop Darren Sanders shot himself in the buttocks when his revolver accidentally discharged.

E-5

Twins third baseman Corey Koskie said, "If I hit 30 home runs and Jacque Jones hits 30 home runs and Torii Hunter hits 30 home runs, that's 120 home runs."

Let's see, one plus one plus one—that's four

For one of the final-exam questions given to Georgia basketball players in his Coaching Principles class, former assistant Jim Harrick Jr. asked, "How many points does a 3-point field goal account for in a Basketball Game?"

Evidently he had the take sign

Yankees slugger Jason Giambi reportedly told a grand jury that he injected human growth hormone into his stomach and testosterone into his buttocks, rubbed a steroid called "the cream" on his body, placed another called "the clear" under his tongue and *might* have taken a female fertility drug called Clomid.

After all, that's what Teamsters and umpires *do*

The union that represents Major League Baseball umpires explored a possible affiliation with the Teamsters, though umpire Tim Tschida downplayed the talks, saying, "We're just having lunch."

Moneyball

After the Twins bought pitcher Terry Mulholland's contract for $1, Mulholland—who would go 5–9 for Minnesota—said, "It was a dollar well spent."

Beware of Greeks sharing lifts

Greek sprinters Konstantinos Kenteris and Katernia Thanou skipped their Olympic drug tests, then faked a tandem motorcycle accident as an alibi.

Baby Ruth

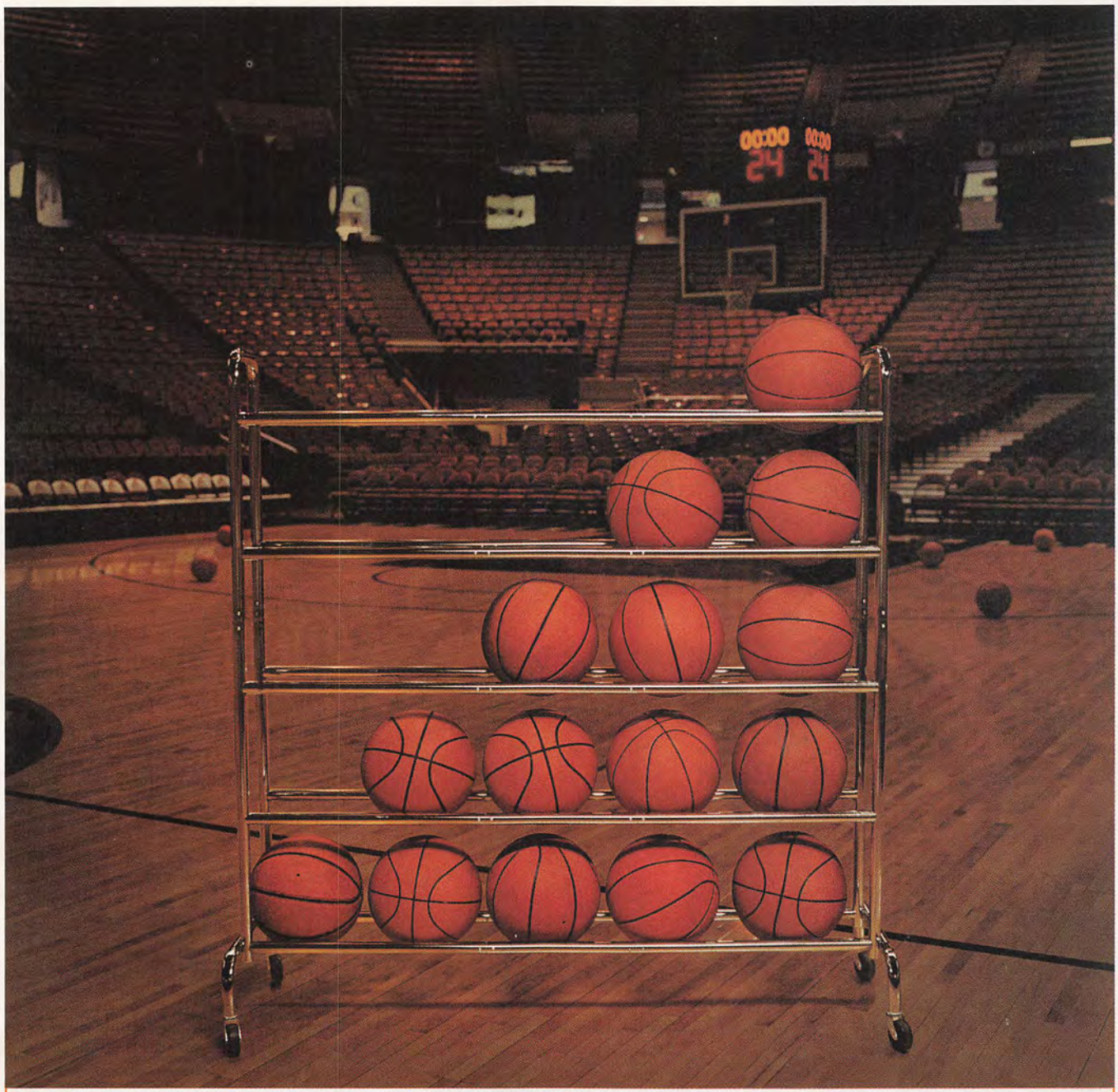
After losing 6–4 to his archrivals at Fenway Park, Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez said, "What can I say? I just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy."

Lincoln, city of light

After a 30–3 loss to Oklahoma, Nebraska coach Bill Callahan called Sooners fans "[expletive] hillbillies."

Sour grapes? No, I think they were clementines

Callahan later softened his comment, saying, "I probably could have used a better choice of words, but I am distressed when people are shooting off guns and throwing fruit at our players."



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More bars claim compares Cingular's network before to after merger. The ALLOVER network covers over 268 million people and is growing all the time. Coverage not available in all areas. ©2004 Cingular Wireless. All rights reserved.

Diaper Dandy
A Pleasantville, N.J., middle school teacher was fired as basketball coach after giving a 13-year-old player the Crybaby Award at the team banquet.

A real wake-up call
Oakland A's pitcher Rich Harden injured his shoulder while turning off his alarm clock.

He was working on a backdoor slider
Florida Marlins pitcher Bryce Florie sliced open his chin one night when he reportedly sleepwalked into sliding glass doors.

With great power comes great irresponsibility
Major League Baseball announced plans (later canceled) to put ads for *Spider-Man 2* on bases and on-deck circles.

The Yankees, sadly, passed on both of them
Rick Bambino and Doodle Hicks were two of the players selected in the June major league draft.

The Devil Rays signed him to a three-year deal
While throwing out the ceremonial first pitch for the Provo Angels of the Pioneer League, banker Kevin Williams blew out his knee, causing the game to be delayed for 25 minutes while he was removed from the field by ambulance.

Jim, for instance, has a tiny freckle on one earlobe

Mets broadcaster Ralph Kiner said that 6′ 4″, 244-pound Phillies slugger Jim Thome has a twin sister, but they are "not identical."

Blaspheme it like Beckham
Wax figures of David Beckham and his wife, Victoria (Posh Spice), were dressed up as Joseph and Mary in the celebrity nativity scene at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in London. A visitor to the museum was so outraged that he punched the two figures in the face.

Dopey's sleepy
Great Britain's National Portrait Gallery exhibited a 67-minute video of Beckham sleeping.

Diamonds are forever. Except when they're not
A $350,000 diamond that was set, as a promotion for the movie *Ocean's Twelve*, in the front end of a Formula One Jaguar in the Monaco Grand Prix was never recovered after driver Christian Klien crashed into a guardrail on the opening lap of the race.

He also puts Trojans on bananas
Randy Valicoff, a farmer in Washington's Yakima Valley, ripened the logos of the Washington Huskies and the Washington State Cougars onto his Pink Lady variety of apples.

This could explain Craig Stadler
A dog in Manchester, England, was found, during surgery, to have swallowed 28 golf balls.

Magic Johnson
After the Pacers' equipment manager was arrested for allegedly exposing himself in the window of his hotel room, Birmingham, Mich., police chief Richard Patterson said, "Apparently he was proud of his equipment."

Kabul promptly threw in the towel
Havana submitted a bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Thousand island undressing
Texas Tech basketball coach Bob Knight upbraided the school's chancellor, David Smith, at the salad bar of a Lubbock supermarket.

Crack staff
In homage to a fellow Toronto Blue Jays pitcher, Justin Miller tattooed the phrase I ♥ BILLY KOCH on his buttocks.

And that's the year in sports—from soup . . .
Eric Booker ate 21 baseball-sized matzo balls in five minutes and 25 seconds to become the world champion of competitive matzo-ball eating.

. . . To nuts
In August, *USA Today* reported, "St. Louis Cardinals reliever Julian Tavarez was suspended for 10 days Tuesday for applying a foreign substance to balls."

That's all, folks!
Canadian prime minister Paul Martin phoned Calgary Flames president Ken King to congratulate him during the last minutes of the Flames' victory in the Western Conference finals. After Martin identified himself, King replied, "Yeah, I'm Daffy Duck, and I've got a hockey game to watch here," then hung up. □

For a collection of Steve Rushin's columns, go to SI.com/writers.

Goes from here.

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Sports Illustrated

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MARK BECHTEL AND
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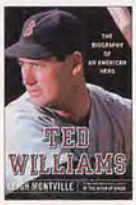
Prose Bowl

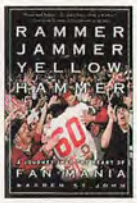
Legends, scandals and one very cold swimmer: SI's best books of 2004

TED WILLIAMS: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN HERO
by Leigh Montville
Doubleday, $24.95



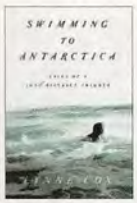
Did we need someone to take another swing at the Splinter's well-chronicled life? (Library shelves groan with at least 10 Williams bios.) This exquisite, exhaustively researched effort by *The Boston Globe* columnist and former SI senior writer is proof that we did. An unabashed Williams fan, Montville is inspired—but not blinded—by love for his subject, and he recounts his childhood hero's on- and off-field exploits in intimate detail. The result is a sometimes painfully vivid colorization of the familiar sepia-toned images of Williams as baseball star, war hero and fishing ace. One of Montville's 400 interviewees told him that writing a book about Williams would be like "reaching down to the bottom of the ice chest, where you touch all the dirt and the strange things." Nevertheless, he delivers a singularly warm and revealing sports bio.

RAMMER JAMMER YELLOW HAMMER
by Warren St. John
Crown, $24



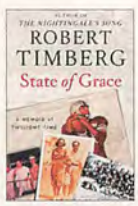
Think *you* are a college football fan? Do you throw up with anxiety every time your team plays? Do you believe your team's greatest alltime coach had "Godlike qualities"? Would you purchase a $300,000 RV just so you could follow your team to any stadium in the continental U.S.? Would you haul your wife out of her hospital bed, or skip your daughter's wedding, to see a game? In this unique and often hilarious take on fandom, St. John hitches a wild RV ride through the South to investigate a bizarre and delightful fever he shares with countless Alabamians: a full-throttle addiction to the Crimson Tide.

SWIMMING TO ANTARCTICA
by Lynne Cox
Knopf, $24.95



Cox describes her thoughts upon hitting the water for a one-mile swim off the coast of Antarctica: "All I could think about was moving forward." The same drive infuses her gripping memoir of a career spent one-upping herself. In an understated style as clear as polar sunlight, Cox re-creates her epic swims and brilliantly conveys what it feels like to push across Antarctica, the English Channel and the Bering Strait.

STATE OF GRACE
by Robert Timberg
Free Press, $26

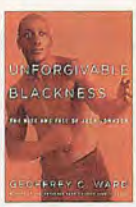


Hardly anyone remembers sandlot football from the 1950s. But what's to remember about a bunch of blue-collar Brooklyn teens smashmouthing it up with their counterparts from Queens? In this moving memoir Timberg reveals that he, like many of his teammates, was given the courage to strive for a more fulfilling life by his time spent on the sandlots.

THE SECOND MARK
by Joy Goodwin
Simon & Schuster, $25

The judging scandal at the 2002 Winter Olympics provides the backdrop for Goodwin's look into the sometimes beautiful, sometimes hideous world of pairs skating. Key here are the stories of the three pairs (from Russia, Canada and China) who won medals in Salt Lake City. Goodwin explores how skating is perceived in their respective homelands. Then, against those disparate backdrops, she brings the skaters, coaches and parents to life, and we root for them all as we learn of the hardships they overcame to reach the top.

UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS: THE RISE AND FALL OF JACK JOHNSON
by Geoffrey C. Ward
Knopf, $26.95



Imagine a fighter with the fists of Joe Louis, the charisma of Muhammad Ali and the cunning of Don King: That was Jack Johnson, the heavyweight champ from 1908 to '15. In this richly detailed work Ward brings to life a complex man whose flouting of

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racial norms—he married three white women—infuriated whites and blacks alike.

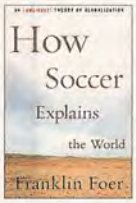
THE LAST SEASON: A TEAM IN SEARCH OF ITS SOUL
by Phil Jackson
Penguin Press, $24.95

No one had a better seat for the birth of the Shaq-Kobe feud than Jackson, and the retired Lakers coach, who has always fancied himself an amateur psychologist, is candid in describing both his men. O'Neal can be petty and "juvenile," while Bryant is "narcissistic" and a "callous gun for hire."

NAMATH: A BIOGRAPHY
by Mark Kriegel
Viking Books, $27.95

You can taste the Scotch and smell the perfume in this rich portrayal of the ultimate playboy, but Kriegel's burrowing reveals the physical and emotional anguish Namath endured. Life after football isn't always pretty for Broadway Joe; Kriegel shows Namath is all the more fascinating for being flawed.

HOW SOCCER EXPLAINS THE WORLD
by Franklin Foer
Harper Collins, $24.95



Mixing reporting, geopolitical analysis and anthropology, Foer explains the inexorable power of *futbol*. His far-flung adventure introduces us to fascinating characters, including the diehards who rally behind FC Barcelona to assert Catalán independence and the Scottish fans of Rangers and Celtic, whose mutual hatred has as much to do with religion as sport.

THE MATCH
by Bruce Schoenfeld
Amistad, $24.95

Though Althea Gibson was the first black tennis player to win a major title (in 1956), she spent much of her later life poor and forgotten. Eschewing conventional biography, Schoenfeld focuses on the partnership between Gibson, the Harlem-raised daughter of a South Carolina sharecropper, and Angela Buxton, a Jew from a wealthy London family. The pair formed a championship doubles team and a five-decade friendship.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE BRODNER. DOUBLEDAY (WILLIAMS COVER); CROWN PUBLISHERS (RAMMER JAMMER COVER); KNOPF (ANTARCTICA COVER. UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS COVER); FREE PRESS (STATE OF GRACE COVER); SIMON & SCHUSTER (SECOND MARK COVER); THE PENGUIN PRESS (THE LAST SEASON COVER); VIKING BOOKS (NAMATH COVER); HARPER COLLINS (SOCCER COVER); AMISTAD (THE MATCH COVER); RON C. ANGLE/BEIMAGES.NET (2: RODDICK; RODDICK, FISH AND KIDS)

Touring Pros

Andy Roddick and the U.S. Davis Cup team used their downtime to rent a bus, drive around Middle America—and bring tennis to an unsuspecting public

The patrons of a suburban St. Louis Waffle House nearly choked on their breakfasts last Thursday morning when Andy Roddick walked into the joint, accompanied by Mardy Fish and Bob and Mike Bryan. If the sight of four tennis pros in eastern Missouri wasn't unusual enough, there was Fish's attire: a diaphanous green skirt. "I played Mardy the night before in St. Paul," Roddick explained, "and we agreed that the loser would have to wear that thing." So it went last week, on the My Ride Bus Tour.

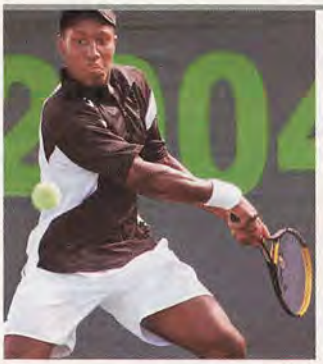
December is Exhibition Month for pro tennis players, the time to make big bucks playing meaningless matches in arenas and amphitheaters. The four Americans, fresh from playing in the Davis Cup finals, added a twist to this ritual. They rented a tour bus sufficiently tricked out to make the Madden Cruiser look like Jeff Spicoli's dilapidated van—replete with three plasma TVs, six double beds and a deluxe kitchen—and spent a week driving through the guts of Middle America. My Ride started in the Twin Cities, wended south to Memphis and Mobile and then doubled back to Nashville.

TENNIS TUTORS Roddick (right) and Fish wowed the kids in Mobile.

Along the way the quartet played hit-and-giggle "exos," made surprise appearances at public tennis complexes, where they held clinics, played Xbox and poker until the sun came up and generally comported themselves like Alpha Tau Phi brothers on a winter-break road trip. After the Bryans, perhaps the world's best doubles team, defeated Roddick and Fish one night, the losers had to perform footwork drills. On the shoulder of Interstate 94. At 3 a.m. In their boxers. "I would tell you it was cold," says Roddick, who had parted ways with coach Brad Gilbert earlier in the week. "But that really wouldn't do it justice."

There was a noblesse oblige component to the bus tour as well. "We thought this was a way to bring tennis to the people," says Roddick. "We're not the NBA or the NFL with this huge marketing machine behind us. It's not like there's a home crowd you know will come to all the games. In tennis a lot of [the promotion] is up to the individual players." —*L. Jon Wertheim*

For the Record



Crowned As the boys' 18-and-under Orange Bowl International tennis champion, Timothy Neilly *(left)*, the first African-American winner in the 58-year history of the prestigious junior event. Neilly, a 17-year-old from Tampa, clinched his first international title with a 6–4, 7–5 defeat of Atlanta's Donald Young, 15, in Key Biscayne, Fla., on Sunday. The finals matchup—Young is also black—was the latest evidence that the trail blazed by Venus and Serena Williams is being followed by other talented young African-American players. Young is considered the best U.S. prospect since Andy Roddick. Neilly, who's known for a huge forehand, caught fire last month when he began working with Tarik Benhabiles, who coached Roddick to the 1999 Orange Bowl title. "Emotionally, Donald played a better match," Benhabiles said, "but Tim's power saved him."

Halted All ticket sales and promotional and marketing operations by the newly minted Washington Nationals, after the Washington, D.C., city council voted on Dec. 14 to require that half the funding for a new ballpark come from private sources. In September, Mayor Anthony Williams signed an agreement with Major League Baseball guaranteeing complete public financing for a stadium; last week commissioner Bud Selig said he won't extend a Dec. 31 deadline for D.C. politicians to make good on the deal. Meanwhile, the team is in limbo: As of Monday, MLB hadn't said whether the team would temporarily play in RFK Stadium, return to Montreal or move elsewhere. Said Williams, "I'm saddened that we can go so far in five years and step back so far in five minutes."

Slapped With a $25 million defamation lawsuit by Olympic gold medalist Marion Jones, BALCO founder Victor Conte. In a nationally televised interview earlier this month, Conte said he watched Jones inject herself with human growth hormone before the 2000 Games, which she denies. Last week her lawyers challenged Conte to take a lie-detector test and accused him of having a vendetta against Jones because she refused to endorse a diet supplement he manufactured. Conte called the lawsuit a "p.r. stunt by a desperate woman who has regularly used drugs throughout her career."

Resigned After four days on the job, would-be USC basketball coach Rick Majerus. On Dec. 14 Majerus, 56, stepped down from his job as an ESPN analyst and agreed to take over the Trojans on April 1. Last Saturday he backed out, saying he was "overwhelmed" and doesn't believe his health is strong enough to handle the long hours the job requires. Majerus retired last January as Utah's coach because of heart problems and his longtime battle with his weight.

Died After being shot near his home in a Chicago suburb in what his family believes was a holdup, Arthur Agee Sr., 52, whose son Arthur Jr. was one of the subjects of the 1994 documentary *Hoop Dreams*. Since then the elder Agee had kicked a cocaine habit, moved into a home his son bought with money made from the movie and became an ordained minister. Said Agee Jr., who played in the USBL and the IBA and plans to launch a sportswear line next year, "*Hoop Dreams* changed him and had an impact on his life."

Go Figure

11 Jaguars home games, out of 15, since the beginning of the 2003 season that have been blacked out on local TV because Alltel Stadium failed to sell out.

9,713 Seats at Alltel that will be covered with a tarp next season, reducing capacity to 66,964.

$284,350 Winning bid in an auction for Jim Thorpe's circa-1917 Canton Bulldogs football jersey, the most ever paid for a nonbaseball jersey.

23 Percentage of Americans who described themselves as hockey fans in a Gallup poll, ranking hockey 10th among 11 sports in the survey, behind figure skating and above pro wrestling.

137 Soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan who sat courtside for the Mavericks' home win last Saturday in seats donated by season-ticket holders.

Mystery Champ

A bust a year ago, Glen Johnson is now looking like the fighter of the year

GLEN JOHNSON has lost more than his share of controversial decisions, so you'll forgive him for not caring if most ringside observers—including Roy Jones Jr., the former world champ whom he knocked out in September—thought Antonio Tarver was the rightful winner of their light heavyweight fight last Saturday night. After starting his career 32–0, Johnson, whose penchant for fighting on opponents' home turf earned him the nickname Road Warrior, had gone just 9-9-2 in his 20 bouts before Saturday. In at least half a dozen of those losses, though, he had a legitimate beef with the decision. Against the favored Tarver (22–3), who knocked Jones out last May, he was again locked in a tight battle. Tarver landed more punches (296 to 217), but Johnson was more aggressive late, taking the final three rounds on two judges' cards to eke out a split decision. "My heart was beating fast," said Johnson of his wait for the outcome. "I came out ahead, which doesn't happen too often. I'm just thankful." The win makes him a favorite for fighter of the year honors, and it set the stage for a lucrative rematch. "If you look at my history," said Johnson, "I never back down from challenges."

CLOSE CALL Johnson (left) landed fewer shots but outpointed Tarver.

CARL JUSTE/THE MIAMI HERALD (NEILLY); MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS (TARVER AND JOHNSON); TOM PRIDDY/ICON SMI/ZUMA PRESS (NATIONALS HAT)

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Surfing's Big Day

Perfect conditions off Oahu meant one thing: A rarely held competition was on

THERE WERE five other surfers in his heat, including former world champion Kelly Slater and big-wave expert Darryl (Flea) Virostko. But Bruce Irons wasn't thinking about those guys when he saw his wave coming in. "I'm watching this big old swell hump up out there, and I was like, O.K., this is it," Irons says. "Fear gave me the adrenaline to paddle into the biggest wave of my life."

The call had gone out the day before to 24 of the world's best big-wave surfers: The Eddie was on. Quiksilver's In Memory of Eddie Aikau is contested at Waimea Bay on the North Shore of Oahu, where Aikau saved scores of lives as the beach's first full-time lifeguard before he became a mainstay of the pro scene. Aikau, who died in 1978 in a boating accident at age 31, made his bones on huge days at Waimea. To this day bumper stickers in Hawaii remember him and issue a challenge: EDDIE WOULD GO.

Part of the Eddie's cachet is that it has been contested just seven times in 20 years. Event organizers don't bother to hold it unless swells in the bay are 20 feet tall (the face of the wave can be up to twice as long). Morning broke on Dec. 15 with 25-foot swells under sunny skies with a light, offshore breeze. "Conditions were perfect for every heat," said Peter Mel, who'd flown in from Santa Cruz, Calif. "Everybody had an opportunity to win."

Mel, 35, was one of many seasoned watermen, but at 25, Irons was a relative pup, having surfed just once before at Waimea, on a much smaller day.

IRONMEN Bruce (below) beat brother Andy (above) to win.

Known for his jaw-dropping aerials in more moderate surf, Irons had—unlike his older brother, Andy, the defending three-time world champion—not done much lately. At the Pipeline a day earlier he'd bumbled through "the worst heat I've surfed in my life. I was superbaffled and bummed."

Then he was up—on a 25-footer that had 20,000 spectators screaming. Slicing down the 40-foot face, Irons rode the beast across the bay, into the gnarly Waimea beach break that had kept lifeguard Aikau so busy. Once there, he doubled back, grabbing his rail and pulling into a perfect closeout barrel. The crowd went berserk. Irons was awarded the only perfect score of the day.

"I'm trashed," he said the next day. "This one wave I ate, I hit the water so hard, my eyelids peeled back. It feels like I've got needles in my neck and back and shoulders." Oddly, he could not stop smiling.

Eddie would have been proud. —*Austin Murphy*

Bill Scheft is on vacation.

Q+A

Ken Burns

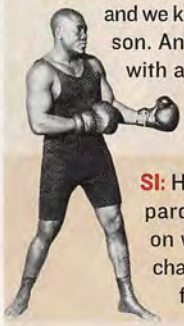
The 51-year-old filmmaker's latest work is *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (PBS, Jan. 17–18)

SI: You've called Jack Johnson *(below)*, who fought from 1897 to 1928, one of the most accessible subjects you've ever chronicled. How so?

Burns: Jack Johnson seemed very modern. As we got to know him more, he seemed to be the one historical character you could drop into today and he'd be fine. He'd have his bling, his long coats, his entourage, his women, his fast cars—and he'd be perfectly at home.

SI: Why do you think Muhammad Ali saw Johnson as a kindred spirit?

Burns: We know they are very similar in how they fought, and we know that Ali liked to watch films of Johnson. And he owes him the ability to get away with a brash public persona. Jack Johnson was the original guy mouthing off—when that could get you lynched.



SI: How goes your effort for a presidential pardon for Johnson, who was convicted on what many believe was a trumped-up charge of "taking a minor across state lines for immoral reasons."

Burns: I'm going to keep talking and shouting about it. Senator John McCain was able to get passed by unanimous consent a nonbinding Senate resolution urging the President to pardon Johnson. Even though he is long dead, the pardon helps heal us all because it reminds us of those higher principles which we adhere to.

SI: You may extend your landmark *Baseball* series?

Burns: We're hoping that PBS will agree to a 10th inning. It would go through the dominant years of the Braves and Yankees and celebrate the individual achievements of McGwire, Sosa and Bonds. Then the greatest moment in all of sports, and I say this without bias [Burns is a Red Sox fan], this year's most remarkable postseason.

SI: Will we ever see a Ken Burns documentary on Paris Hilton or Lindsay Lohan?

Burns: I promise there will be no Paris Hilton or Lindsay Lohan documentary. I do long films. How could that possibly be longer than, like, 10 minutes? —*Richard Deitsch*

EVAN AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES (BURNS); HULTON-DEUTSCH COLLECTION/CORBIS (JOHNSON); JOLI (2, ANDY AND BRUCE IRONS)

AMBIEN HELPS YOU GET THE SLEEP YOU NEED.

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AMBIEN is indicated for the short-term treatment of insomnia. There is a low occurrence of side effects associated with the short-term use of AMBIEN. The most commonly observed side effects in controlled clinical trials were drowsiness (2%), dizziness (1%), and diarrhea (1%). When you first start taking AMBIEN, use caution in the morning when engaging in activities requiring complete alertness until you know how you will react to this medication. In most instances, memory problems can be avoided if you take AMBIEN only when you are able to get a full night's sleep (7 to 8 hours). As with any sleep medication, do not use alcohol while you are taking AMBIEN. Prescription sleep aids are often taken for 7 to 10 days—or longer as advised by your doctor. All people taking sleep medicines have some risk of becoming dependent on the medicine.

Please see brief summary of prescribing information on adjoining page.

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[ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE] C
5-MG & 10-MG TABLETS

Ambien® CR

(zolpidem tartrate)

BRIEF SUMMARY

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Ambien (zolpidem tartrate) is indicated for the short-term treatment of insomnia. Ambien has been shown to decrease sleep latency and increase the duration of sleep for up to 35 days in controlled clinical studies.

Hypnotics should generally be limited to 7 to 10 days of use, and reevaluation of the patient is recommended if they are to be taken for more than 2 to 3 weeks. Ambien should not be prescribed in quantities exceeding a 1-month supply (see *Warnings*).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

None known.

WARNINGS

Since sleep disturbances may be the presenting manifestation of a physical and/or psychiatric disorder, symptomatic treatment of insomnia should be initiated only after a careful evaluation of the patient. The failure of insomnia to remit after 7 to 10 days of treatment may indicate the presence of a primary psychiatric and/or medical illness which should be evaluated. Worsening of insomnia or the emergence of new thinking or behavior abnormalities may be the consequence of an unrecognized psychiatric or physical disorder. Such findings have emerged during the course of treatment with sedative/hypnotic drugs, including Ambien. Because some of the important adverse effects of Ambien appear to be dose related (see *Precautions* and *Dosage and Administration*), it is important to use the smallest possible effective dose, especially in the elderly.

A variety of abnormal thinking and behavior changes have been reported to occur in association with the use of sedative/hypnotics. Some of these changes may be characterized by decreased inhibition (eg, aggressiveness and extroversion that seemed out of character), similar to effects produced by alcohol and other CNS depressants. Other reported behavioral changes have included bizarre behavior, agitation, hallucinations, and depersonalization. Amnesia and other neuropsychiatric symptoms may occur unpredictably. In primarily depressed patients, worsening of depression, including suicidal thinking, has been reported in association with the use of sedative/hypnotics.

It can rarely be determined with certainty whether a particular instance of the abnormal behaviors listed above is drug induced, spontaneous in origin, or a result of an underlying psychiatric or physical disorder. Nonetheless, the emergence of any new behavioral sign or symptom of concern requires careful and immediate evaluation.

Following the rapid dose decrease or abrupt discontinuation of sedative/hypnotics, there have been reports of signs and symptoms similar to those associated with withdrawal from other CNS-depressant drugs (see *Drug Abuse and Dependence*).

Ambien, like other sedative/hypnotic drugs, has CNS-depressant effects. Due to the rapid onset of action, Ambien should only be ingested immediately prior to going to bed. Patients should be cautioned against engaging in hazardous occupations requiring complete mental alertness or motor coordination such as operating machinery or driving a motor vehicle after ingesting the drug, including potential impairment of the performance of such activities that may occur the day following ingestion of Ambien. Ambien showed additive effects when combined with alcohol and should not be taken with alcohol. Patients should also be cautioned about possible combined effects with other CNS-depressant drugs. Dosage adjustments may be necessary when Ambien is administered with such agents because of the potentially additive effects.

PRECAUTIONS

General

Use in the elderly and/or debilitated patients: Impaired motor and/or cognitive performance after repeated exposure or unusual sensitivity to sedative/hypnotic drugs is a concern in the treatment of elderly and/or debilitated patients. Therefore, the recommended Ambien dosage is 5 mg in such patients (see *Dosage and Administration*) to decrease the possibility of side effects. These patients should be closely monitored.

Use in patients with concomitant illness: Clinical experience with Ambien in patients with concomitant systemic illness is limited. Caution is advisable in using Ambien in patients with diseases or conditions that could affect metabolism or hemodynamic responses. Although studies did not reveal respiratory depressant effects at hypnotic doses of Ambien in normals or in patients with mild to moderate chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a reduction in the Total Arousal Index together with a reduction in lowest oxygen saturation and increase in the times of oxygen desaturation below 80% and 90% was observed in patients with mild-to-moderate sleep apnea when treated with Ambien (10 mg) when compared to placebo. However, precautions should be observed if Ambien is prescribed to patients with compromised respiratory function, since sedative/hypnotics have the capacity to depress respiratory drive. Post-marketing reports of respiratory insufficiency, most of which involved patients with pre-existing respiratory impairment, have been received. Data in end-stage renal failure patients repeatedly treated with Ambien did not demonstrate drug accumulation or alterations in pharmacokinetic parameters. No dosage adjustment in renally impaired patients is required; however, these patients should be closely monitored (see *Pharmacokinetics*). A study in subjects with hepatic impairment did reveal prolonged elimination in this group; therefore, treatment should be initiated with 5 mg in patients with hepatic compromise, and they should be closely monitored.

Use in depression: As with other sedative/hypnotic drugs, Ambien should be administered with caution to patients exhibiting signs or symptoms of depression. Suicidal tendencies may be present in such patients and protective measures may be required. Intentional overdosage is more common in this group of patients; therefore, the least amount of drug that is feasible should be prescribed for the patient at any one time.

Information for patients: Patient information is printed in the complete prescribing information.

Laboratory tests: There are no specific laboratory tests recommended.

Drug interactions

CNS-active drugs: Ambien was evaluated in healthy volunteers in single-dose interaction studies for several CNS drugs. A study involving haloperidol and zolpidem revealed no effect of haloperidol on the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics of zolpidem. Imipramine in combination with zolpidem produced no pharmacokinetic interaction other than a 20% decrease in peak levels of imipramine, but there was an additive effect of decreased alertness. Similarly, chlorpromazine in combination with zolpidem produced no pharmacokinetic interaction, but there was an additive effect of decreased alertness and psychomotor performance. The lack of a drug interaction following single-dose administration does not predict a lack following chronic administration.

An additive effect on psychomotor performance between alcohol and zolpidem was demonstrated.

A single-dose interaction study with zolpidem 10 mg and fluoxetine 20 mg at steady-state levels in male volunteers did not demonstrate any clinically significant pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic interactions. When multiple doses of zolpidem and fluoxetine at steady-state concentrations were evaluated in healthy females, the only significant change was a 17% increase in the zolpidem half-life. There was no evidence of an additive effect in psychomotor performance.

Following five consecutive nightly doses of zolpidem 10 mg in the presence of sertraline 50 mg (17 consecutive daily doses, at 7:00 am, in healthy female volunteers), zolpidem C_{max} was significantly higher (43%) and T_{max} was significantly decreased (53%). Pharmacokinetics of sertraline and N-desmethylsertraline were unaffected by zolpidem.

Since the systematic evaluations of Ambien in combination with other CNS-active drugs have been limited, careful consideration should be given to the pharmacology of any CNS-active drug to be used with zolpidem. Any drug with CNS-depressant effects could potentially enhance the CNS-depressant effects of zolpidem.

Drugs that affect drug metabolism via cytochrome P450: A randomized, double-blind, crossover interaction study in ten healthy volunteers between itraconazole (200 mg once daily for 4 days) and a single dose of zolpidem (10 mg) given 5 hours after the last dose of itraconazole resulted in a 34% increase in $AUC_{0-\infty}$ of zolpidem. There were no significant pharmacodynamic effects of zolpidem on subjective drowsiness, postural sway, or psychomotor performance.

A randomized, placebo-controlled, crossover interaction study in eight healthy female volunteers between 5 consecutive daily doses of rifampin (600 mg) and a single dose of zolpidem (20 mg) given 17 hours after the last dose of rifampin showed significant reductions of the AUC (–73%), C_{max} (–58%), and $T_{1/2}$ (–36%) of zolpidem together with significant reductions in the pharmacodynamic effects of zolpidem.

Other drugs: A study involving cimetidine/zolpidem and ranitidine/zolpidem combinations revealed no effect of either drug on the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics of zolpidem. Zolpidem had no effect on digoxin kinetics and did not affect prothrombin time when given with warfarin in normal subjects. Zolpidem's sedative/hypnotic effect was reversed by flumazenil; however, no significant alterations in zolpidem pharmacokinetics were found.

Drug/Laboratory test interactions: Zolpidem is not known to interfere with commonly employed clinical laboratory tests. In addition, clinical data indicate that zolpidem does not cross-react with benzodiazepines, opiates, barbiturates, cocaine, cannabinoids, or amphetamines in two standard urine drug screens.

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

Carcinogenesis: Zolpidem was administered to rats and mice for 2 years at dietary dosages of 4, 18, and 80 mg/kg/day. In mice, these doses are 26 to 520 times or 2 to 35 times the maximum 10-mg human dose on a mg/kg or mg/m² basis, respectively. In rats these doses are 43 to 876 times or 6 to 115 times the maximum 10-mg human dose on a mg/kg or mg/m² basis, respectively. No evidence of carcinogenic potential was observed in mice. Renal liposarcomas were seen in 4/100 rats (3 males, 1 female) receiving 80 mg/kg/day and a renal lipoma was observed in one male rat at the 18 mg/kg/day dose. Incidence rates of lipoma and liposarcoma for zolpidem were comparable to those seen in historical controls and the tumor findings are thought to be a spontaneous occurrence.

Mutagenesis: Zolpidem did not have mutagenic activity in several tests including the Ames test, genotoxicity in mouse lymphoma cells in vitro, chromosomal aberrations in cultured human lymphocytes, unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat hepatocytes in vitro, and the micronucleus test in mice.

Impairment of fertility: In a rat reproduction study, the high dose (100 mg base/kg) of zolpidem resulted in irregular estrus cycles and prolonged precoital intervals, but there was no effect on male or female fertility after daily oral doses of 4 to 100 mg base/kg or 5 to 130 times the recommended human dose in mg/m². No effects on any other fertility parameters were noted.

Pregnancy

Teratogenic effects: Category B. Studies to assess the effects of zolpidem on human reproduction and development have not been conducted.

Teratology studies were conducted in rats and rabbits.

In rats, adverse maternal and fetal effects occurred at 20 and 100 mg base/kg and included dose-related maternal lethargy and ataxia and a dose-related trend to incomplete ossification of fetal skull bones.

In rabbits, dose-related maternal sedation and decreased weight gain occurred at all doses tested. At the high dose, 16 mg base/kg, there was an increase in postimplantation fetal loss and underossification of sternebrae in viable fetuses.

This drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nonteratogenic effects: Studies to assess the effects on children whose mothers took zolpidem during pregnancy have not been conducted. However, children born of mothers taking sedative/hypnotic drugs may be at some risk for withdrawal symptoms from the drug during the postnatal period. In addition, neonatal flaccidity has been reported in infants born of mothers who received sedative/hypnotic drugs during pregnancy.

Labor and delivery: Ambien has no established use in labor and delivery.

Nursing mothers: Studies in lactating mothers indicate that between 0.004 and 0.019% of the total administered dose is excreted into milk, but the effect of zolpidem on the infant is unknown.

The use of Ambien in nursing mothers is not recommended.

Pediatric use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients below the age of 18 have not been established.

Geriatric use: A total of 154 patients in U.S. controlled clinical trials and 897 patients in non-U.S. clinical trials who received zolpidem were ≥60 years of age. For a pool of U.S. patients receiving zolpidem at doses of ≤10 mg or placebo, there were three adverse events occurring at an incidence of at least 3% for zolpidem and for which the zolpidem incidence was at least twice the placebo incidence (ie, they could be considered drug related).

Adverse Event	Zolpidem	Placebo
Dizziness	3%	0%
Drowsiness	5%	2%
Diarrhea	3%	1%

A total of 30/1,959 (1.5%) non-U.S. patients receiving zolpidem reported falls, including 28/30 (93%) who were ≥70 years of age. Of these 28 patients, 23 (82%) were receiving zolpidem doses >10 mg. A total of 24/1,959 (1.2%) non-U.S. patients receiving zolpidem reported confusion, including 18/24 (75%) who were ≥70 years of age. Of these 18 patients, 14 (78%) were receiving zolpidem doses >10 mg.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Associated with discontinuation of treatment: Approximately 4% of 1,701 patients who received zolpidem at all doses (1.25 to 90 mg) in U.S. premarketing clinical trials discontinued treatment because of an adverse clinical event. Events most commonly associated with discontinuation from U.S. trials were daytime drowsiness (0.5%), dizziness (0.4%), headache (0.5%), nausea (0.6%), and vomiting (0.5%).

Approximately 4% of 1,959 patients who received zolpidem at all doses (1 to 50 mg) in similar foreign trials discontinued treatment because of an adverse event. Events most commonly associated with discontinuation from these trials were daytime drowsiness (1.1%), dizziness/vertigo (0.8%), amnesia (0.5%), nausea (0.5%), headache (0.4%), and falls (0.4%).

Data from a clinical study in which selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) treated patients were given zolpidem revealed that four of the seven discontinuations during double-blind treatment with zolpidem (n=95) were associated with impaired concentration, continuing or aggravated depression, and manic reaction; one patient treated with placebo (n=97) was discontinued after an attempted suicide.

Incidence in controlled clinical trials

Most commonly observed adverse events in controlled trials: During short-term treatment (up to 10 nights) with Ambien at doses up to 10 mg, the most commonly observed adverse events associated with the use of zolpidem and seen at statistically significant differences from placebo-treated patients were drowsiness (reported by 2% of zolpidem patients), dizziness (1%), and diarrhea (1%). During longer-term treatment (28 to 35 nights) with zolpidem at doses up to 10 mg, the most commonly observed adverse events associated with the use of zolpidem and seen at statistically significant differences from placebo-treated patients were dizziness (5%) and drugged feelings (3%).

Treatment-emergent adverse experiences in placebo-controlled clinical trials: The following are treatment-emergent adverse events from U.S. placebo-controlled clinical trials. Data are limited to data from doses up to and including 10 mg. In short-term trials, events seen in zolpidem patients (n=685) at an incidence equal to 1% or greater compared to placebo (n=473) were: headache (7% vs 6% for placebo), drowsiness (2% vs 0%), dizziness (1% vs 0%), nausea (2% vs 3%), diarrhea (1% vs 0%), and myalgia (1% vs 2%). In long-term clinical trials, events seen in zolpidem patients (n=152) at an incidence of 1% or greater compared to placebo (n=161) were: dry mouth (3% vs 1% for placebo), allergy (4% vs 1%), back pain (3% vs 2%), influenza-like symptoms (2% vs 0%) , chest pain (1% vs 0%), fatigue (1% vs 2%), palpitation (2% vs 0%), headache (19% vs 22%), drowsiness (8% vs 5%), dizziness (5% vs 1%), lethargy (3% vs 1%), drugged feeling (3% vs 0%), lightheadedness (2% vs 1%), depression (2% vs 1%), abnormal dreams (1% vs 0%), amnesia (1% vs 0%), anxiety (1% vs 1%), nervousness (1% vs 3%), sleep disorder (1% vs 0%), nausea (6% vs 6%), dyspepsia (5% vs 6%), diarrhea (3% vs 2%), abdominal pain (2% vs 2%), constipation (2% vs 1%), anorexia (1% vs 1%), vomiting (1% vs 1%), infection (1% vs 1%), myalgia (7% vs 7%), arthralgia (4% vs 4%), upper respiratory infection (5% vs 6%), sinusitis (4% vs 2%), pharyngitis (3% vs 1%), rhinitis (1% vs 3%), rash (2% vs 1%), and urinary tract infection (2% vs 2%).

Dose relationship for adverse events: There is evidence from dose comparison trials suggesting a dose relationship for many of the adverse events associated with zolpidem use, particularly for certain CNS and gastrointestinal adverse events.

Adverse events are further classified and enumerated in order of decreasing frequency using the following definitions: frequent adverse events are defined as those occurring in greater than 1/100 subjects; infrequent adverse events are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1,000 patients; rare events are those occurring in less than 1/1,000 patients.

Frequent: abdominal pain, abnormal dreams, allergy, amnesia, anorexia, anxiety, arthralgia, asthenia, ataxia, back pain, chest pain, confusion, constipation, depression, diarrhea, diplopia, dizziness, drowsiness, drugged feeling, dry mouth, dyspepsia, euphoria, fatigue, headache, hiccup, infection, influenza-like symptoms, insomnia, lethargy, lightheadedness, myalgia, nausea, nervousness, palpitation, sleep disorder, vertigo, vision abnormal, vomiting.

Infrequent: abnormal hepatic function, agitation, arthritis, bronchitis, cerebrovascular disorder, coughing, cystitis, decreased cognition, detached, difficulty concentrating, dysarthria, dysphagia, dyspnea, edema, emotional lability, eye irritation, eye pain, falling, fever, flatulence, gastroenteritis, hallucination, hyperglycemia, hypertension, hypoesthesia, illusion, increased SGPT, increased sweating, leg cramps, malaise, menstrual disorder, migraine, pallor, paresthesia, postural hypotension, pruritus, scleritis, sleeping (after daytime dosing), speech disorder, stupor, syncope, tachycardia, taste perversion, thirst, tinnitus, trauma, tremor, urinary incontinence, vaginitis.

Rare: abdominal body sensation, abnormal accommodation, abnormal gait, abnormal thinking, abscess, acne, acute renal failure, aggressive reaction, allergic reaction, allergy aggravated, altered saliva, anaphylactic shock, anemia, angina pectoris, apathy, appetite increased, arrhythmia, arteritis, arthrosis, bilirubinemia, breast fibroadenosis, breast neoplasm, breast pain, bronchospasm, bullous eruption, circulatory failure, conjunctivitis, corneal ulceration, decreased libido, delusion, dementia, depersonalization, dermatitis, dysphasia, dysuria, enteritis, epistaxis, eructation, esophagospasm, extrasystoles, face edema, feeling strange, flushing, furunculosis, gastritis, glaucoma, gout, hemorrhoids, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, hot flashes, hypercholesteremia, hyperhemoglobinemia, hyperlipidemia, hypertension aggravated, hypokinesia, hypotension, hypotonia, hypoxia, hysteria, impotence, increased alkaline phosphatase, increased BUN, increased ESR, increased saliva, increased SGOT, injection-site inflammation, intestinal obstruction, intoxicated feeling, lacrimation abnormal, laryngitis, leukopenia, lymphadenopathy, macrocytic anemia, manic reaction, micturition frequency, muscle weakness, myocardial infarction, neuralgia, neuritis, neuropathy, neurosis, nocturia, otitis externa, otitis media, pain, panic attacks, paresis, parosmia, periorbital edema, personality disorder, phlebitis, photopsia, photosensitivity reaction, pneumonia, polyuria, pulmonary edema, pulmonary embolism, purpura, pyelonephritis, rectal hemorrhage, renal pain, restless legs, rigors, sciatica, somnambulism, suicide attempts, tendinitis, tenesmus, tetany, thrombosis, tolerance increased, tooth caries, urinary retention, urticaria, varicose veins, ventricular tachycardia, weight decrease, yawning.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Controlled substance: Schedule IV.

Abuse and dependence: Studies of abuse potential in former drug abusers found that the effects of single doses of zolpidem tartrate 40 mg were similar, but not identical, to diazepam 20 mg, while zolpidem tartrate 10 mg was difficult to distinguish from placebo.

Sedative/hypnotics have produced withdrawal signs and symptoms following abrupt discontinuation. These reported symptoms range from mild dysphoria and insomnia to a withdrawal syndrome that may include abdominal and muscle cramps, vomiting, sweating, tremors, and convulsions. The U.S. clinical trial experience from zolpidem does not reveal any clear evidence for withdrawal syndrome. Nevertheless, the following adverse events included in DSM-III-R criteria for uncomplicated sedative/hypnotic withdrawal were reported at an incidence of ≤1% during U.S. clinical trials following placebo substitution occurring within 48 hours following last zolpidem treatment: fatigue, nausea, flushing, lightheadedness, uncontrolled crying, emesis, stomach cramps, panic attack, nervousness, and abdominal discomfort. Rare post-marketing reports of abuse, dependence and withdrawal have been received.

Individuals with a history of addiction to, or abuse of, drugs or alcohol are at increased risk of habituation and dependence; they should be under careful surveillance when receiving any hypnotic.

OVERDOSAGE

Signs and symptoms: In European postmarketing reports of overdose with zolpidem alone, impairment of consciousness has ranged from somnolence to light coma, with one case each of cardiovascular and respiratory compromise. Individuals have fully recovered from zolpidem tartrate overdoses up to 400 mg (40 times the maximum recommended dose). Overdose cases involving multiple CNS-depressant agents, including zolpidem, have resulted in more severe symptomatology, including fatal outcomes.

Recommended treatment: General symptomatic and supportive measures should be used along with immediate gastric lavage where appropriate. Intravenous fluids should be administered as needed. Flumazenil may be useful. Respiration, pulse, blood pressure, and other appropriate signs should be monitored and general supportive measures employed. Sedating drugs should be withheld following zolpidem overdosage. Zolpidem is not dialyzable.

The possibility of multiple drug ingestion should be considered.

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The Beat

By Lisa Altobelli

IS SHE or isn't she? At **Andy Roddick**'s annual charity event last week at the Polo Club in Boca Raton, Fla., **Anna Kournikova** reportedly told fans she is now Mrs. **Enrique Iglesias**, claiming to have wed longtime boyfriend *(below)* in a secret ceremony in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, earlier this month. "Enrique is great. Everything is awesome," she said. But on Monday there were reports that the couple was not hitched, and Kournikova's representatives had not confirmed the nuptials. Kournikova, 23, was married to NHL star **Sergei Fedorov**, who is dating ubiquitous party girl **Tara Reid**, proof that there is life after Anna.

■ Picking up on **Lance Armstrong**'s Live Strong theme, country singer **Tim McGraw** is selling "Ya gotta believe" bracelets to benefit cancer patients. McGraw's father, former reliever **Tug McGraw**, died of a brain tumor earlier this year; the new bracelets look like baseball seams and are inscribed with 45 YGB for his uniform number and the inspirational phrase he popularized. Proceeds will go toward improving quality of life for cancer victims. "We wanted every day of [my father's] life at the end to be as enjoyable as it could," says McGraw. "There's no doubt that improving the quality of his life extended his life." The bracelets can be found at his website (www.timmcgraw.com).

PICTURE THIS Everyone's busy during the holiday season, but no one has more balls in the air than world-champion basketball spinner Bruce Crevier. The four-time *Guinness* record holder—he's spun 21 basketballs at a time—and South Dakota native performs around the country with his wife, Diane, and their nine children. Last week they spun through Omaha, entertaining fans at men's and women's games at Creighton University.

■ Former New York mayor **Rudy Giuliani**'s son has gone from little devil to Blue Devil. **Andrew Giuliani**, 18, who made a scene at Hizzoner's 1994 inauguration that was spoofed on SNL by **Chris Farley**, will go to Duke in the fall and join the golf team, which is currently ranked 16th in the country. (The school offered a partial athletic scholarship, but Andrew requested that they hold the funds for someone who needs them more.) The 5' 10", 190-pound Giuliani is a senior at St. Joseph Regional in Montvale, N.J., where he's a scratch golfer and was the kicker on the football team this season.

■ Hall of Famer **John Elway** was in Bagram, Afghanistan, last week for the ground breaking of the **Pat Tillman** USO Center, dedicated to the former Cardinals defensive back and Army Ranger. "In my mind [Tillman is] a hero," Elway told a gathering of 1,500 troops. "You're all heroes." The NFL donated $250,000 toward the center in memory of Tillman, who was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan in April. Elway was joined by *Best Damn Sports Show Period* host **Leeann Tweeden** and comedian **Robin Williams**. The **Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders** were also busy spreading holiday cheer last week, paying their 25th annual visit to troops stationed in South Korea.

THIS WEEK'S SIGN OF THE **APOCALYPSE**

A writer and director are seeking backers for a Broadway musical based on the O.J. Simpson trial.

■ **Pedro Martinez**'s postseason sidekick, diminutive Dominican actor **Nelson de la Rosa**, won't follow the Mets' new ace to Queens. Martinez and his 28-inch-tall pal had a tiff and haven't spoken since Boston's World Series parade. "I'm not going to the Mets unless some other Dominican ballplayer makes me an offer," de la Rosa told New York's *Daily News*. "If the Yankees call me, I'll go with them."

They Said It

REGGIE MILLER

Pacers 39-year-old guard, after the team signed 36-year-old Michael Curry: "Hallelujah. We can talk about things that happened in the '80s and stuff."

DAVID E. KLUTHO (PICTURE THIS); ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES (MILLER); NANCY KASZERMAN/ZUMA PRESS (KOURNIKOVA AND IGLESIAS)

The Weeks Ahead

What to watch and watch for **By Julia Morrill**

SATURDAY 25 **Heat at Lakers ABC 3 p.m.** | Boxing Day isn't until tomorrow, but we'll keep an eye on Shaq and Kobe, who meet in L.A. There's also holiday cheer at 12:30 p.m. on ESPN, as the Pacers and the Pistons renew acquaintances for the first time since the Malice at the Palace.

TUESDAY 28 ***Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*** **HBO 10 p.m.** | Meet Kyle Maynard, who became one of Georgia's top high school wrestlers despite being born without arms below the biceps and legs below the thighs. Now a freshman at Georgia, Maynard wrestles on the club team.

THURSDAY 30 **Continental Tire Bowl, Boston College vs. North Carolina ESPN2 1 p.m.** | The Eagles have won four bowl games in four years—the nation's longest run. **Holiday Bowl, Cal vs. Texas Tech ESPN 8 p.m.** | Cal's J.J. Arrington is second in the nation in rushing yards.

FRIDAY 31 **Liberty Bowl, Louisville vs. Boise State ESPN 3:30 p.m.** | In Memphis both defenses figure to be all shook up. The Cardinals have the nation's top offense, with 537 yards and 50.27 points per game, while the Broncos are second (512 yards and 49.73 points).

SATURDAY 1 **Rose Bowl, Michigan vs. Texas ABC 5 p.m.** | Two of the nation's most storied programs finally meet. **Capital One Bowl, Iowa vs. LSU ABC 1 p.m.** | The Tigers, led by defensive end Marcus Spears and cornerback Corey Webster, have the nation's third-best D.

TUESDAY 4 **Orange Bowl, Oklahoma vs. USC ABC 8 p.m.** | Each school in the national-title game has a QB who's won the Heisman (Matt Leinart of USC and OU's Jason White, the 2003 winner) and a running back who easily could have (USC's Reggie Bush and OU's Adrian Peterson).

WEDNESDAY 5 ***Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Model Search*** **NBC 8 p.m.** | Just in time for winter, our new six-episode reality show features 12 undiscovered models competing for a spot in the 2005 SI Swimsuit Issue and a $1 million modeling contract. We know: What took us so long?

Under Review

Her daddy's dead, her brother's in prison, her sister's a welfare cheat and her mama weighs more than 300 pounds. Boxing, Maggie Fitzgerald tells trainer Frankie Dunn in Clint Eastwood's emotionally powerful *Million Dollar Baby*, "is the only thing I ever felt good doing." Dunn (Eastwood) owns a rundown gym in L.A. and reads Yeats. His estranged daughter sends back his weekly letters marked RETURN TO SENDER, and he tells Maggie (Hilary Swank) that women's boxing is simply "the latest freak show out there." But little by little Maggie's determination tugs at his heart, and his buddy Eddie Dupris (Morgan Freeman), an old fighter who lost an eye in his final bout but accepts his fate with a generous grace, persuades Frankie to work with her. The two make a formidable pair. Maggie wins again and again and again, until the film takes an unforeseen, heartbreaking turn. The performances are spot-on; the fluid fight scenes are tension packed. (Swank trained for three months and gained 19 pounds of muscle for her role.) *Baby* begins with a spare, intimate charm—a conversation between Eastwood and Freeman about holes in socks is hilarious in its inanity—and slowly builds into a moving allegory of redemption, personal responsibility and love.

—*Nancy Ramsey*

ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES (SHAQ); CORBIS (SANTA HAT); ROBERT B. STANTON/WIREIMAGE.COM (ARRINGTON); RIC FRANCIS/AP (FLOAT); MARC HISPARD (MACPHERSON); MICHELLE GARRETT/CORBIS (ORANGES); BETTMANN/CORBIS (ELVIS); JEFFREY MAYER/WIREIMAGE.COM (MAYNARD)

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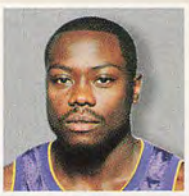
Faces in the Crowd

Shelby Pickering

LEE, MAINE > Soccer

Shelby, a senior striker at Lee Academy, ended her high school career with a four-year total of 178 goals, setting a state record for boys or girls. She led the Pandas to the Class D finals and was the Maine girls' winner of the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.



Jamel Staten

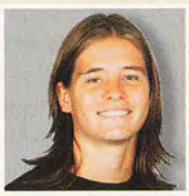
MINNEAPOLIS > Basketball

Staten, a senior forward at Minnesota State, averaged 21.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per game in three Mavericks victories. His performance earned him North Central Conference player of the week honors for the third consecutive time this season.

Bobby McAlister

FEDERAL WAY, WASH. > Soccer

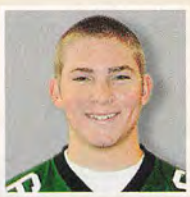
McAlister, a junior forward at Seattle, led the Redhawks to the NCAA Division II national championship, scoring the winning goals in both victories in the final four. In all he scored 22 goals this season, including 11 game-winners, as his No. 1–ranked team went 22-0-1.



Paula Infante

SANTIAGO, CHILE > Field Hockey

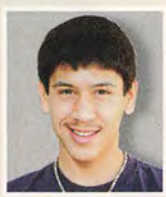
Infante, a sophomore midfielder at Maryland, broke the single-game NCAA Division I tournament record, scoring all her team's goals in a 5–2 first-round win over Delaware. She led the Terrapins in goals for the season (14) and is a two-time first-team All-America honoree.



Karsten Sween

RIDGECREST, CALIF. > Football

Karsten, a senior quarterback at Burroughs High, completed 264 passes for 4,345 yards (averaging 334 yards per game) and 46 touchdowns for the season. The Burroughs Burros finished at 8–5. He ended his high school career with 8,107 passing yards in 27 games.



Sarah and Michael Holcomb

VIAN, OKLA. > Cross-country

Sarah and Michael, a freshman and a senior, respectively, at Sequoyah High, became the state's first sister and brother to win regional high school championship titles.

To submit a candidate for Faces in the Crowd, go to **SI.com/faces.**

FROM TOP: MONTY RAND; SHERRY SELL/BARNETT PHOTO; ANIL KAPAHI; BILL VAUGHAN/UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND; DAVID VIGNEAULT; TOM GILBERT (2)

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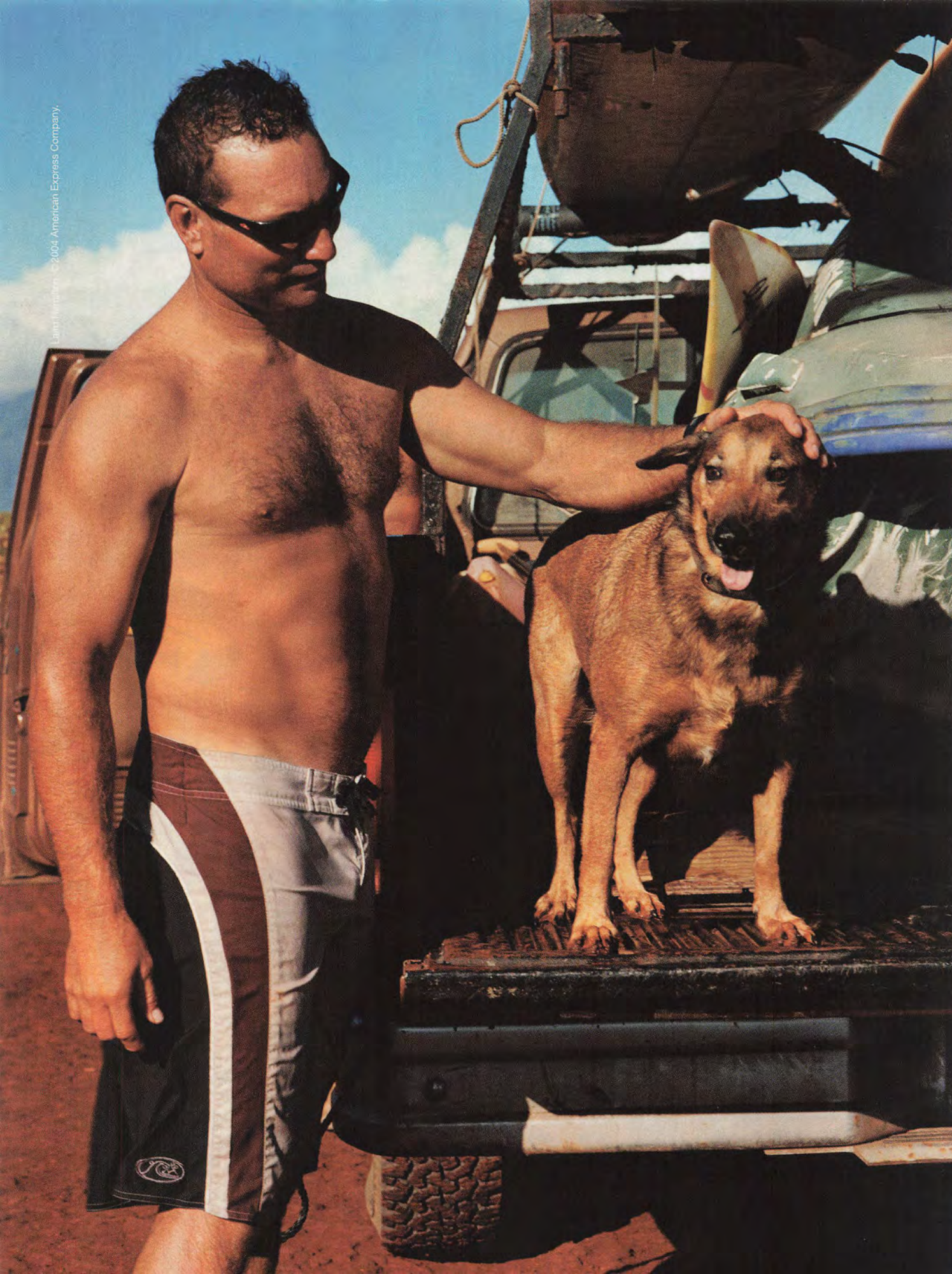
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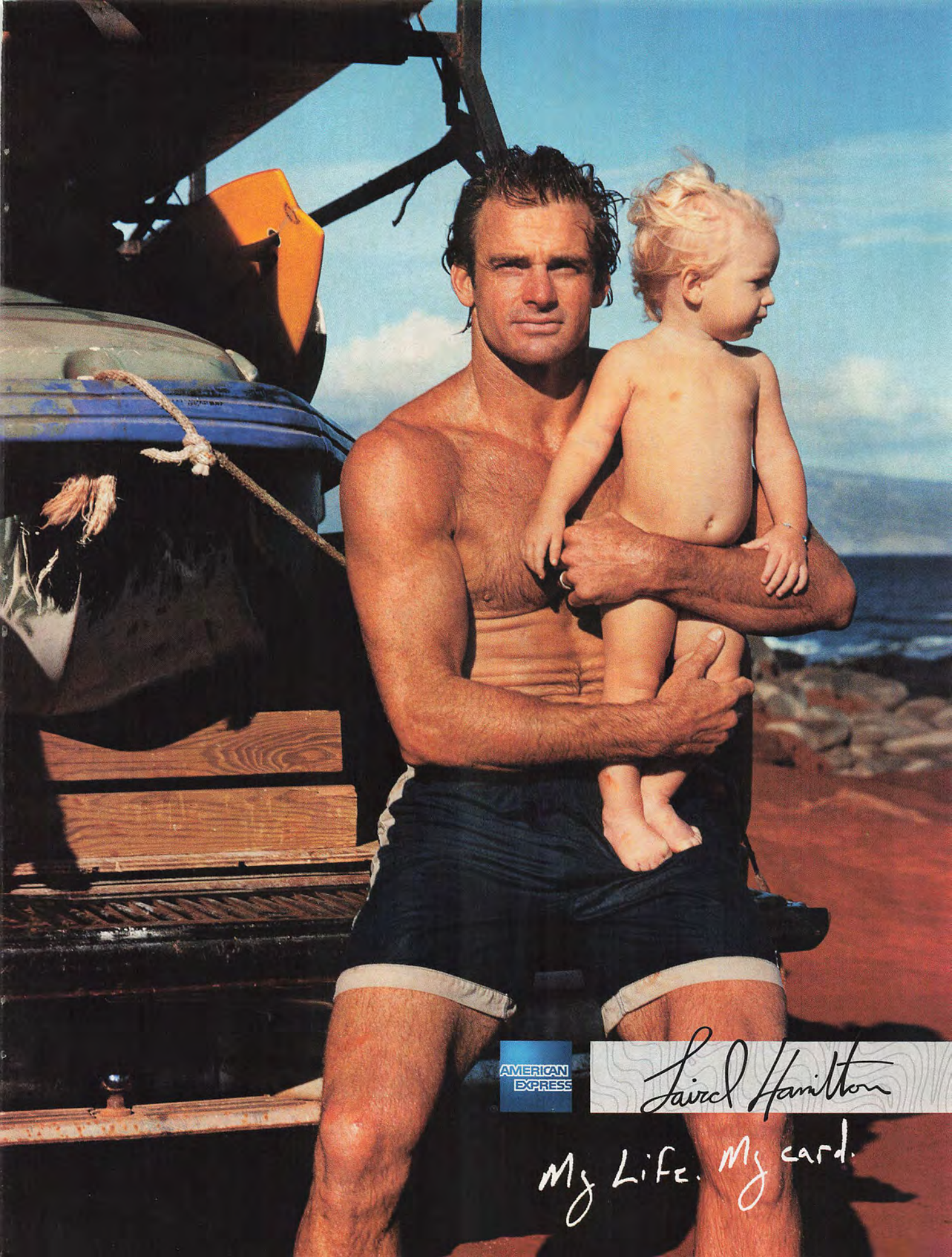
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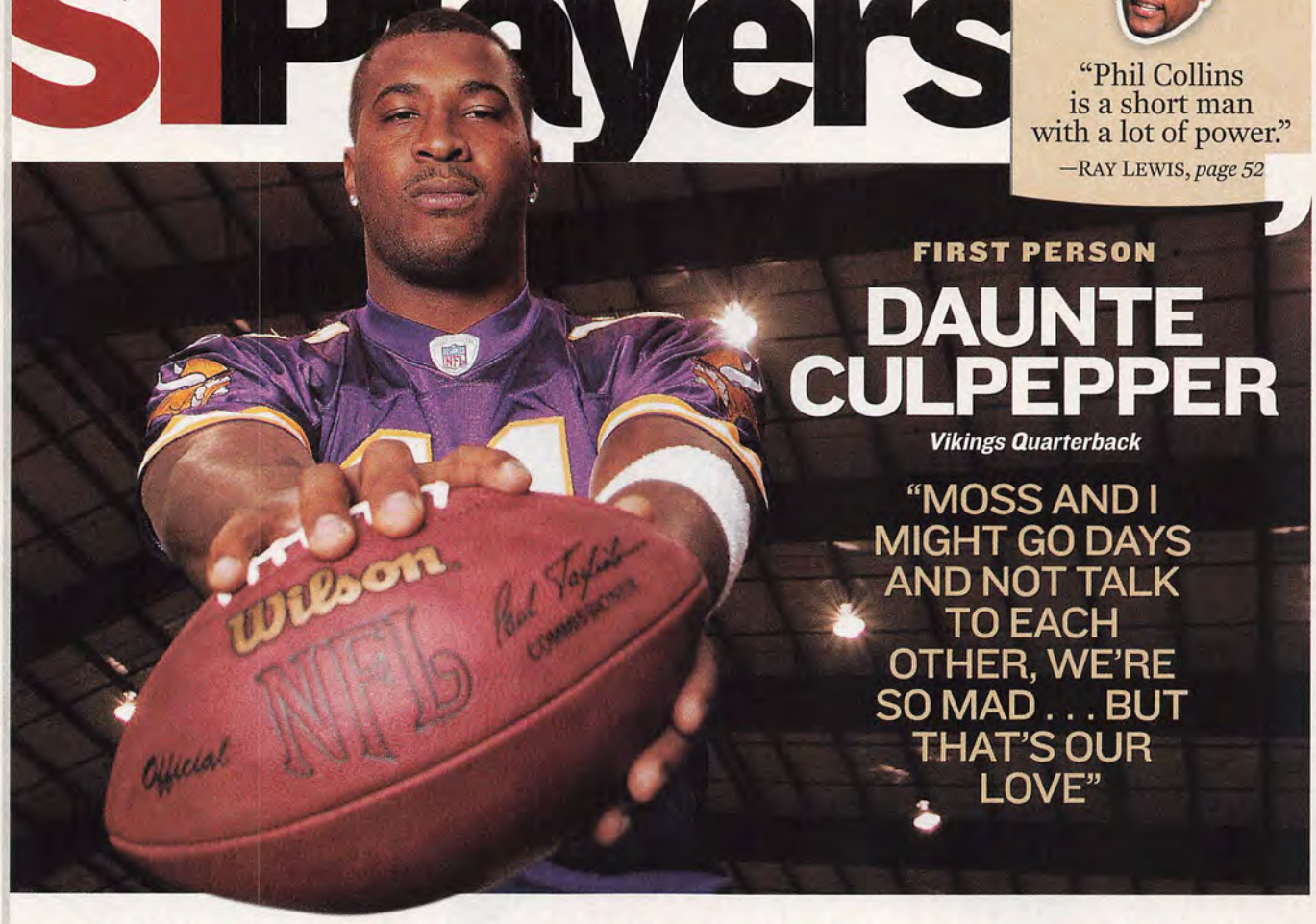
Edited by
KOSTYA KENNEDY

"Phil Collins is a short man with a lot of power."
—RAY LEWIS, *page 52*

SI Players



PRESTON MACK (INSET); MICHAEL MALARKEY/WIREIMAGE.COM

FIRST PERSON

DAUNTE CULPEPPER

Vikings Quarterback

"MOSS AND I MIGHT GO DAYS AND NOT TALK TO EACH OTHER, WE'RE SO MAD . . . BUT THAT'S OUR LOVE"

• **ON HOW HE HAS GROWN SINCE HIS NFL DEBUT IN 1999** I've learned I don't have to be Superman. I don't have to break three tackles and throw a 50-yard bomb on every play. Sometimes you have to throw it away and let the punter do his job. I realize the big picture, that sometimes you gotta play the field-position game. I never thought about the field-position game earlier in my career.

• **ON GETTING BOOED IN 2001–02** I'd never heard anyone boo me. It woke me up, made me realize things can change like *that*. The good thing was, I never took it home with me. I had my wife [Kim] and my kids, and I just forgot about it. Home was a place I could find my peace.

• **ON HIMSELF AS A STUDENT AT VANGUARD HIGH IN OCALA, FLA.** I was smart, but I was a slacker. I wouldn't push myself. I had the wrong perception about everything.

• **ON HIS FAVORITE TEACHER** My 10th-grade algebra teacher, Ms. Shellman [Shirley Whitmore Shellman, *inset*]. She was always on me, making sure I did the right stuff. She was like my mama that wasn't my mama.

• **ON MS. SHELLMAN'S LASTING IMPRESSION** She gave me so many little lessons about treating people right, being a good human being. She still comes to one of our games each year, and I always talk to her around the holidays.

• **ON HIS "I WANT TO BE THE BEST EVER" QUOTE ON THE DEC. 4, 2000, SI COVER** I still say that. I feel that in my heart. I've worked for everything I've got in sports. I wasn't always the best, most talented athlete. But I would outwork you.

• **ON HOW FAR HE CAN THROW** Seventy yards. Maybe 75.

• **ON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH RANDY MOSS** We're still tight. We're growing old together. Moss is probably my closest friend on the team.

• **ON SIDELINE BLOWUPS WITH MOSS** That's the game. That's real. We might go days and not talk to each other because we're so mad, but when all is said and done, it's our love. Growing up, my cousins and I would fight like cats and dogs, but no one outside the house was going to mess with us. That's me and Moss.

• **ON PREPARATION** I'm not a 6 a.m. guy. I prepare on the field. I'm the type who learns by doing. Some people can look at something on film one time and do it. I like to feel it.

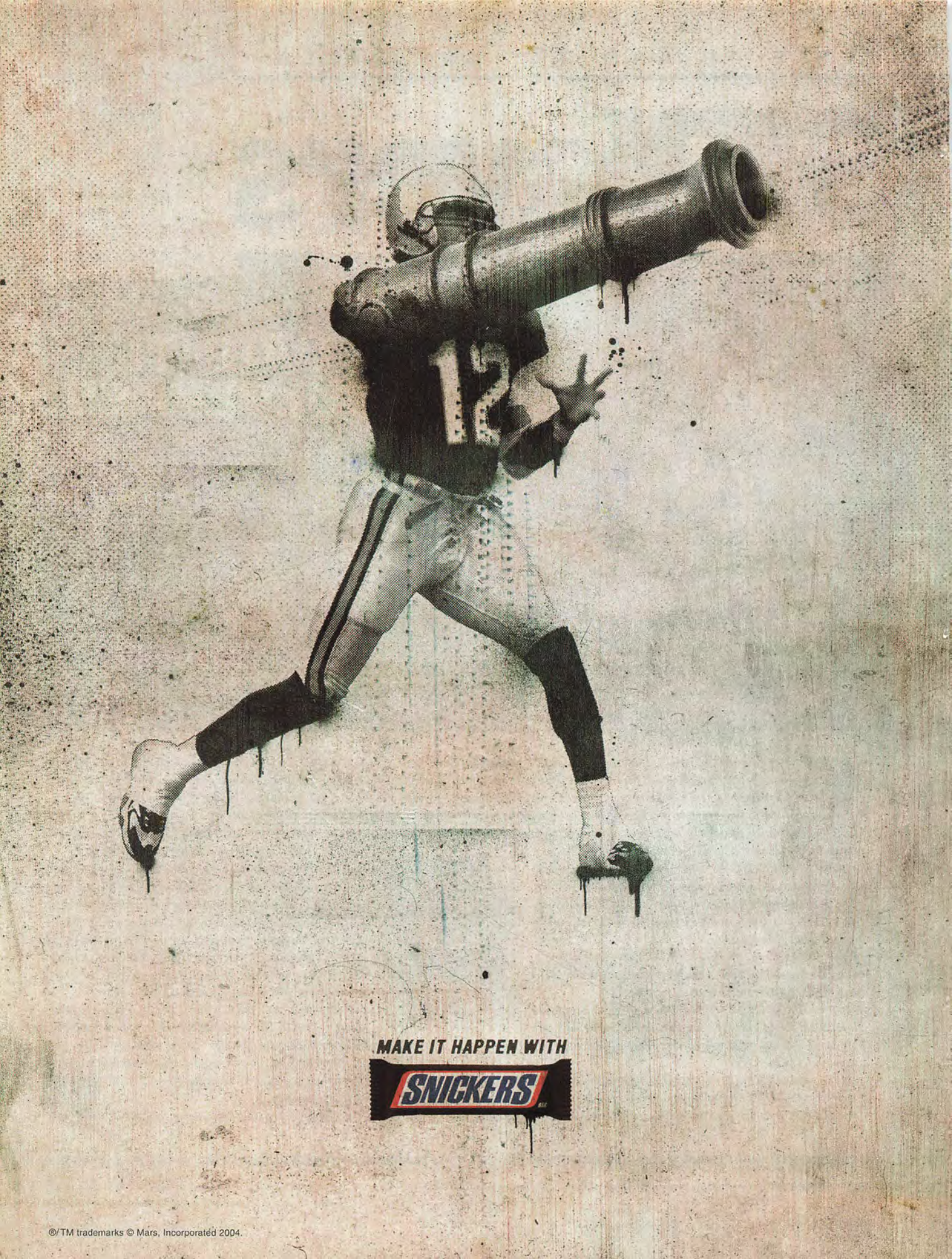
• **ON CELEBRATING TDS BY DOING THE ROLL** It started with the song *Get Your Roll On* by the Big Tymers, the hip-hop duo. They do the roll in the video. I added the knockout punch at the end.

• **ON PLAYING IN MINNEAPOLIS** The worst thing is the cold. But I've come to appreciate the seasons. I like all the pretty trees. I'm all about broadening my horizons.

—As told to Josh Elliott and Amanda Cherrin

CULPEPPER'S 4,133 PASSING YARDS LEADS THE NFC. VIKINGS (8–6) CAN CLINCH A PLAYOFF SPOT VS. GREEN BAY (8–6) ON FRIDAY

PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY BOGDON



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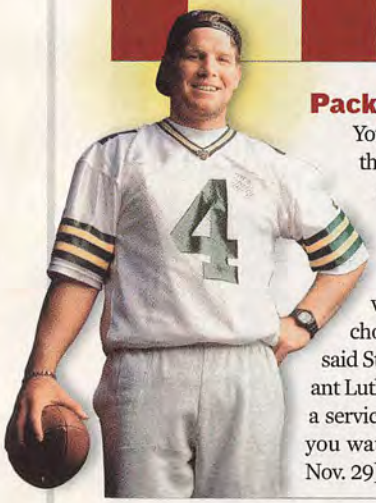
WHO'S Hot



Packers

You lose at home (to the Jags) and *still* make the playoffs in a season you started 1–4? Sounds like divine intervention, something the Pack is getting used to: Green Bay–area churches have altered Christmas Eve services in deference to game versus Vikings. "You're forcing people to choose between two American religions," said Steve Samuelson, pastor of Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church, explaining why he added a service that will end by 2 p.m. kickoff. "Did you watch the Packers against St. Louis [on Nov. 29]? It was like Saint Brett at the end."

12

As in days of Christmas . . . Moviegoers kept *Ocean's Twelve* strong at No. 2 at the box office; Michael Vick reeled off game-saving 12-yard TD run on fourth-and-goal; Big Ben won his 12th straight for the Steelers; and Chargers Antonio Gates tied single-season record for TD catches by a tight end at, yep, 12.

New York

Hey, you couldn't expect Giants to actually *beat* the Steelers—but Big Blue got two-TD showing from QB Eli Manning a week after Lindsay Lohan *(left)* snagged his number at Manhattan club Butter. Jets rolled and metro-area teams keep landing stars: first Pedro, then Vince.

Takeo Spikes

In return to Cincy, Bills LB recovered fumble and returned pick 62 yards in 33–17 win for football's hottest team. Now it gets eerie: Spikes *(right)* said he had premonition he'd score, and linebacker London Fletcher dreamed the same thing Saturday night. Said Spikes, "In life . . . you always want to be the cream of the crop."

WHO'S Not

Bears

With playoffs on the line Urlacher's boys got dominated 24–5 in their own element (frigid Soldier Field) by "a bunch of guys from Houston" (to quote Texans quarterback David Carr). Chicago QB Chad Hutchinson *(right)* said he's "not embarrassed" by team's four-turnover performance, but kicker Paul Edinger should be red-faced: He's missed 18 of his last 42 field-goal attempts and says, "Maybe I'm not concentrating enough."

Seahawks O-line

In early December, Seattle QB Matt Hasselbeck gave each of his mammoth protectors a cooler stocked with 100 pounds of meat. ("This is like a winter barbecue!" crowed tackle Walter Jones.) On Sunday they were what they'd eaten: Jets pulverized the unit—including Floyd (Pork Chop) Womack—for three sacks and bested it on a goal line stand.

Tennessee

Titans, losers of four straight and blinking into the twilight of Steve McNair's career, will play their third game in 13 days on Christmas, while NBA Grizzlies languish below .500. Looks like someone angered the gods: Lisa Marie Presley announced she's selling the lion's share of her daddy's estate.

Flaking Jakes

Delhomme dropped the ball twice in overtime loss to Falcons, and Plummer continued his errant ways, throwing two interceptions against Kansas City a few days after he was fined $5,000 for flipping off fans at Mile High. Life in Carolina and Denver sure ain't jake.

SI PLAYERS POLL

Based on a survey of 354 players

For complete results and a breakdown of the poll go to SI.com/scorecard.

Should the NFL overtime format be changed so that each team is guaranteed at least one possession?

Yes .....38% No 62%

Do you think the NFL's instant-replay rule should be abolished?

Yes .....5% No 95%

FAST FACTS: There have been 10 overtime games this year, three of which were settled on the first possession. . . . The record for overtime games in a season is 25, set in 2002. . . . Among AFC East respondents, 11% voted yes to abolishing instant replay.

JOHN BIEVER (FAVRE); STEVE GRAYSON/WIREIMAGE.COM (LOHAN); OTTO GRUELE JR./GETTY IMAGES (SPIKES); REINHOLD MATAY/WIREIMAGE.COM (HUTCHINSON); COURTESY OF ELVIS PRESLEY ENTERPRISES INC. GRACELAND; MICHAEL HICKEY/WIREIMAGE.COM (REFEREE); GENE LOWER/WIREIMAGE.COM (FLAG)

The Questions with Fred Miller

Titans Tackle

What was your welcome-to-the-NFL moment? It was really going into my fourth season, when I became a vested player and got all the benefits. That was my main concern—making it there so I could get my 401(k) and the whole nine yards, and I could say, "O.K., I made it now, now I can enjoy it."

What was your most embarrassing moment? In high school [in Aldine, Texas], riding my bike to the pep rally. My pant leg got caught in the chain, and I fell, face-first, in front of a crowd of people.

What's your favorite off-day activity? Hunting. I love to deer hunt. Anywhere in the woods, when you can just get away and be by yourself.

If I weren't in the NFL, I'd be . . . Selling real estate.

Last Week

Ugh. The Titans' offensive line allowed three sacks in a 40–35 loss to the Raiders.

This Week

Yay! The Titans host the Broncos on Christmas Day, three days before Miller and his wife, Kim, celebrate their eighth anniversary.

● **PERSPECTIVES**

My Life As a Little Man

Earl Boykins, *Nuggets Point Guard*

IT'S A scene that 5′ 5″ Earl Boykins has lived through dozens of times. Upon arriving at an arena he's stopped by a security guard asking to see I.D. "People aren't used to seeing a normal-sized guy playing in the NBA," says the second-shortest player in NBA history. (At 5′ 3″, Muggsy Bogues leads the list.) Boykins, raised by his 4′ 11″ mother, Charlene, and his 5′ 8″ father, Willie, in Cleveland and two inches shorter than his sister, Charnella, has endured small indignities along the way. When he was three, Willie carried him to the rec center in a duffel bag; at Central Catholic High an Eastern Michigan recruiter thought Boykins was a ball boy; at his last NBA stop, Golden State, Boykins couldn't quite see eye-to-eye with 5′ 6″ coach Eric Musselman. And it was in Golden State that the sound man would play *It's a Small World* when Boykins checked into the game—until the point guard told him to cut it out.

The 28-year-old Boykins, who has a four-year-old son with his wife, Keyan, dwells on the positives. He's strong—he can bench 315 pounds—and quick, and he surprises opponents. ("You think you have a passing lane, and then, boom, Earl races in to take it away," says Magic center Tony Battie.) He also gets 50-plus fan letters a week from parents thanking him for inspiring their undersized kids. "I don't look at my height as a disadvantage," says Boykins. "I'm unique. So's Shaq, and he's won three championships." —*Chris Mannix*

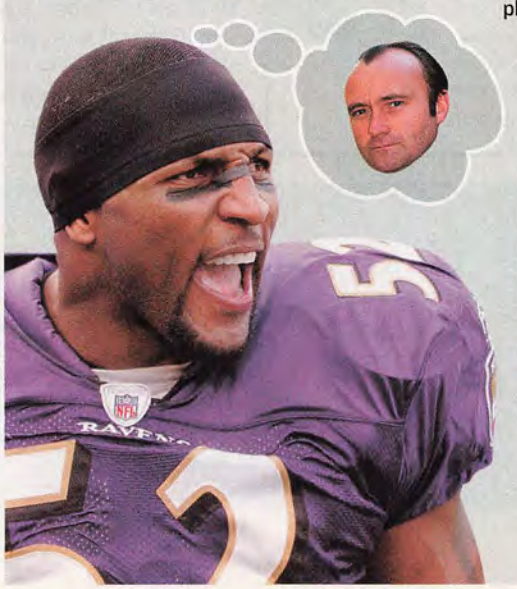
● **RAVENS AT STEELERS, DEC. 26, 1 P.M. EST**

Psych-up Songs

Two key defenders with very different tastes in inspirational tunes

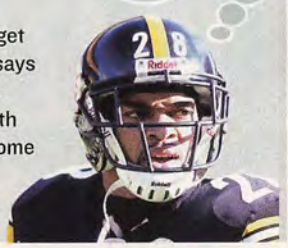
RAY LEWIS,
Ravens LB
In the Air Tonight
by Phil Collins

"THAT SONG [which I listen to before games] depicts everything you've always dreamed of, every moment you've dreamed, the places you are at and where you want to be," says the Baltimore defensive captain and two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year. "Phil Collins is a short guy with a lot of power. I fell into the song long ago as a child when it was played on *Miami Vice*. Once I got older I started understanding I could use it for motivation. You ride off your heart, and your heart is where your treasure lies."



CHRIS HOPE,
Steelers safety
Knockin Heads Off
by Lil Jon &
The East Side Boyz

"THE [HIP-HOP] SONGS they have get you pumped up," says Hope, third on the team in tackles with 81. "We're doing some head busting."



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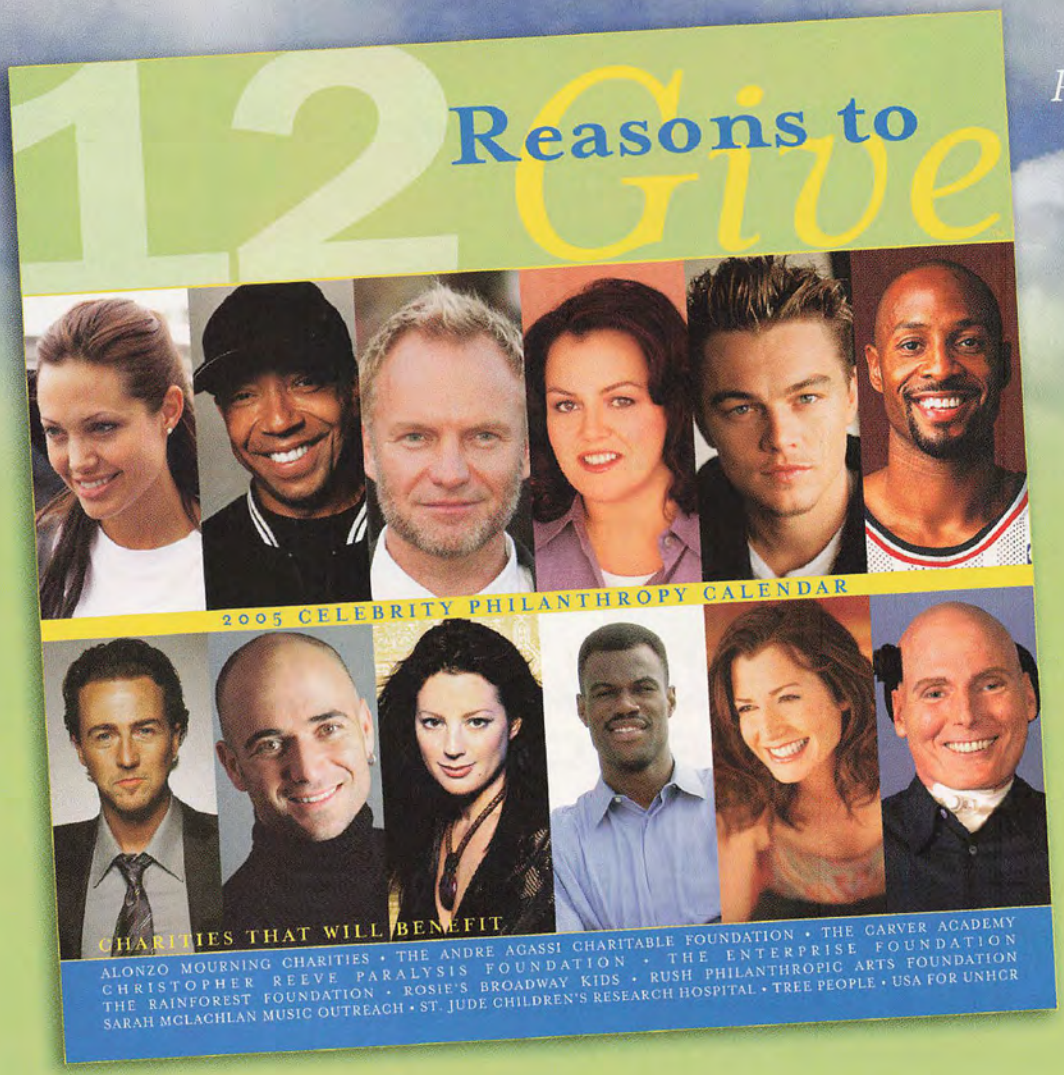
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MPC COMPUTERS BOWL, Dec. 27
Fresno State vs. Virginia • Boise, Idaho
Haul: Blue parka, football, backpack, blue wool skull cap, Mediasonic MV600 ETC digital camcorder

"Any gift bag with a camcorder is good," said Fresno State sophomore cornerback Marcus McCauley, whose Bulldogs received a lot of clothing at last year's Silicon Valley Football Classic. "It's good timing. I was looking into getting a camcorder and was thinking about saving the per diem we get from the bowl to buy one. Weird how that worked out." SI PLAYERS RATING:

ALAMO BOWL, Dec. 29
Ohio State vs. Oklahoma State • San Antonio
Haul: Long gray-blue woolen jacket, Oakley Crush 2.0 watch, black Bishop fleece pullover, mini Alamo Bowl helmet, sling bag, video games (ESPN College Hoops *and* NBA 2K5)

Beware I-35 drivers: Oklahoma State safety Vernon Grant *(above)* uses the portable DVD player he got at the 2003 Cotton Bowl each time he makes the four-hour drive home to Duncanville, Texas. "I plug it in my car, pop a movie in and I'm on my way," says the 5' 9", 180-pound junior, who had hoped for either a camcorder or an iPod this year. "Aw, man," he said upon learning of the Alamo gift list. "We're gonna have to get that iPod next year then." SI PLAYERS RATING:

HOLIDAY BOWL, Dec. 30
California vs. Texas Tech • San Diego
Haul: Tommy Hilfiger watch, fleece jacket, Mintek portable DVD player, twill cap

At last year's Insight Bowl, Cal players got a Sony digital camera, a Bulova watch and a blanket. "This year's stuff is better," says defensive back Donnie McCleskey *(left)*, a junior from Chino, Calif., who was nonetheless envious when he heard what the Fiesta Bowl participants are getting. "You can't complain but. . . everybody likes an iPod." SI PLAYERS RATING:

SUN BOWL, Dec. 31
Purdue vs. Arizona State • El Paso
Haul: Silvertone analog watch, Armor Gear backpack, Sahara black cotton mock turtleneck, Sahara short sleeve shirt, two baseball caps, Vitalis hair dryer, commemorative coin, commemorative keychain, disposable camera

"How exciting do the gifts sound? Want my hair dryer?" asks Purdue's senior QB Kyle Orton *(left)*. "I just like getting the rings Purdue gives us. I give those to my dad, who keeps them stored away. I was hoping for an iPod, but the better the bowl, the better the gifts." Ouch. SI PLAYERS RATING:

FIESTA BOWL, Jan. 1
Utah vs. Pittsburgh • Tempe, Ariz.
Haul: iPod mini, silver Bulova watch, Nike nylon drawstring bag with Frito-Lay products

Utah defensive end Kite Afeaki has been in the market for an iPod for some time. "Ever since I first saw it," the 22-year-old says. "Man, to get it for free . . . I'm married, I got two kids, I got another on the way—I was thinking about buying one for myself, but there was no way in hell I was going to be able to afford it." What's the first song the junior plans to download? "Bob Marley's *Pimper's Paradise*. I'd love to load it up with all the reggae I can." SI PLAYERS RATING:

OUTBACK BOWL, Jan. 1
Wisconsin vs. Georgia • Tampa
Haul: Gold ring with blue stone and fake diamonds, silver Nautica watch, football with team logos, baseball cap, GPX CD player

"We always get watches, so it's nice to finally get a ring," says Wisconsin defensive back Scott Starks *(right)*, who received wrist candy at the 2003 Music City Bowl and 2002 Alamo Bowl. "It's not really free stuff because we work hard to get there, but it's a nice little pat on a back. We're getting stuff we need, but I'll probably give these things to my parents and family as Christmas gifts—that way I won't have to spend any money." SI PLAYERS RATING:

SUGAR BOWL, Jan. 3
Auburn vs. Virginia Tech • New Orleans
Haul: Silver Nokia watch, Weber Baby Q Gas grill, APEX portable DVD player

Even with a grill in the offing, Tech DE Darryl Tapp *(right)* looks back longingly at the '02 San Francisco Bowl, when he got a Fossil watch and an MP3 player. "That was stuff I really wanted, plus it was my first bowl. I didn't know we'd get stuff like that, so it was a shock." Tapp still wears the Fossil watch, and he gave the Bulova he got at last year's Insight Bowl to his mother. Who'll get this year's wrist piece? Says the junior, "I don't know. It depends if I like it or not." SI PLAYERS RATING:

ORANGE BOWL, Jan. 4
USC vs. Oklahoma • Miami
Haul: Sony digital camera/recorder, Fossil watch and wallet, Nike small rolling duffel bag, commemorative mini helmet, Orange Bowl hat, team picture plaque

"I asked my family for a wallet for Christmas—I guess I should tell them not to get it for me anymore," says USC senior guard Travis Watkins, who regularly uses the watch and backpack he got at last year's Rose Bowl. "This stuff is not going to collect dust around me. I'll definitely use the camera—all I have is a 35-millimeter at home." SI PLAYERS RATING:

DAVID E. KLUTHO (GRANT); MARTY SNORTUM (2, DRYER AND DVD PLAYER); KEVIN TANAKA/SPORTPIX (STARKS); JEFFREY A. SALTER (ORANGE BOWL BAG); MICHAEL HEARPE (RING); JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES (ORTON); DARREN CARROLL (OAKLEY); CHRISTOPHER BUTLER (MPC BAG); KOHJIRO KINNO (HOLIDAY DVD); JASON WISE (TOSTITOS BAG); TAPP (DAVID ALLIO/ICON SMI); RICK OLIVER (GRILL); ROBERT B. STANTON/WIREIMAGE.COM (MCCLESKEY)

Goody-Goody! Goody! Good! God!

● WILD CARDS

Mail Bonding

It's a magical time of year—and not just because the playoffs are approaching. Even the Raiders send tidings of good cheer

RAIDERS *could be headed for a white Christmas in K.C., where they play on the 25th.*

PACKERS *won Christmas Eve games on frozen Lambeau Field in 1995 and 2000.*

BENGALS *website sells Christmas goodies such as black-and-orange team-logoed stockings.*

BUFFALO *was voted, in an SI Players poll, the second toughest AFC site to play a December game.*

BEARS *RB Anthony Thomas, in a Santa suit, gave gifts to kids at the Brain Tumor Association last week.*

TEXANS *guard Chester Pitts was to read seasonal stories to kids at a Houston library this week.*

STEELERS *WR Hines Ward, celebrating his first NFL Christmas ('98), gave four friends silver watches.*

COWBOYS *tackle Torrin Tucker was born on December 25, 1979, in Meridian, Miss.*

CHARGERS *have never played in San Diego on Christmas, where Yuletide average high temp is 66°.*

PANTHERS *community Christmas party, on Dec. 13, was visited by Santa Claus and team mascot, Sir Purr.*

JETS *RB Curtis Martin had a career-high eight catches versus the Ravens on Christmas Eve, 2000.*

CARDS *CBs Renaldo Hill and David Macklin, in Santa hats, brought gifts to underprivileged kids last week.*

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THE NFL

Eagles regroup after losing Owens • Chargers' Edwards having a banner year • San Francisco's unheralded tight end

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Creighton's Tyler McKinney is back in action after nearly going blind in one eye • New panel should include players

BASEBALL

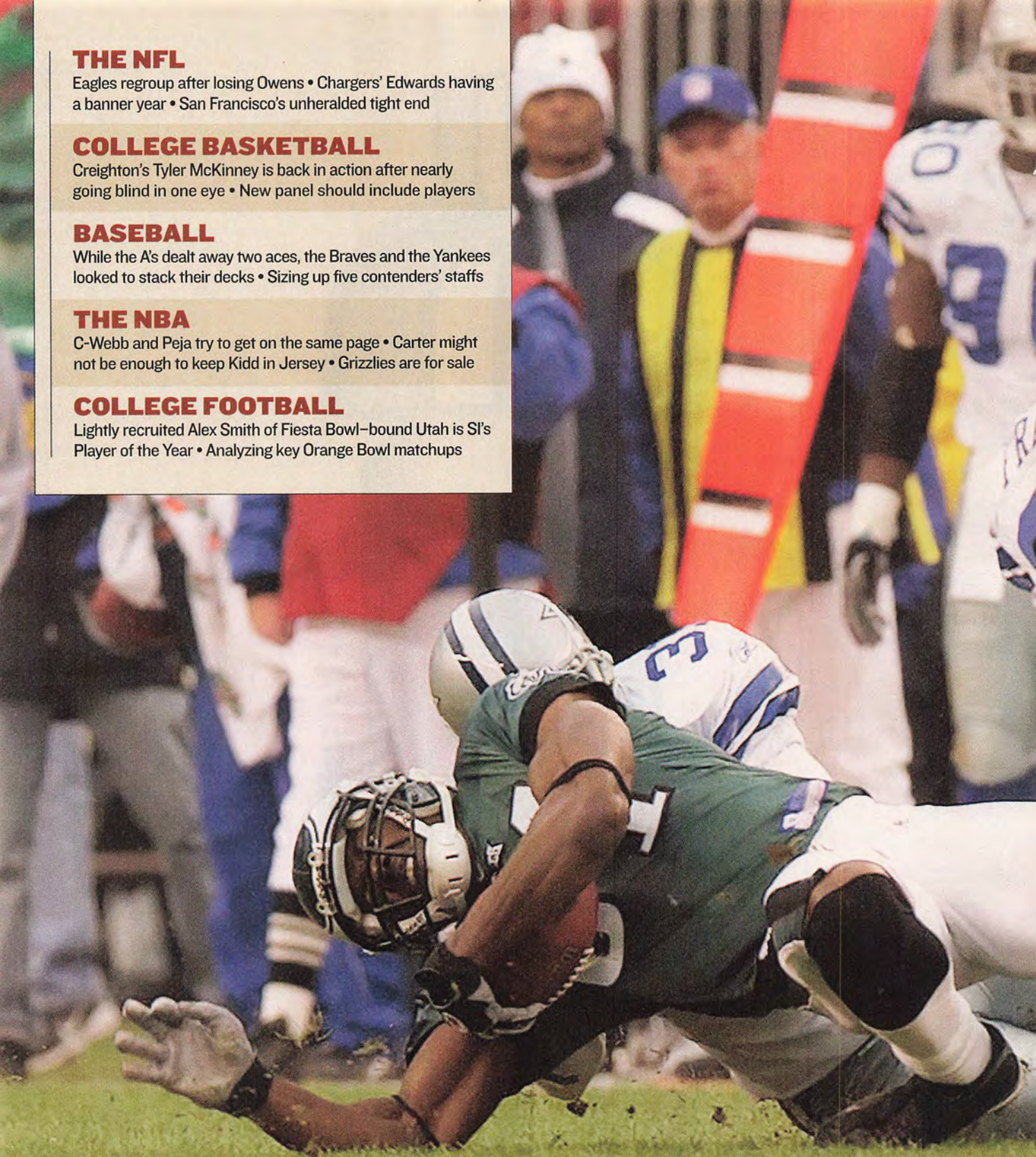
While the A's dealt away two aces, the Braves and the Yankees looked to stack their decks • Sizing up five contenders' staffs

THE NBA

C-Webb and Peja try to get on the same page • Carter might not be enough to keep Kidd in Jersey • Grizzlies are for sale

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Lightly recruited Alex Smith of Fiesta Bowl–bound Utah is SI's Player of the Year • Analyzing key Orange Bowl matchups



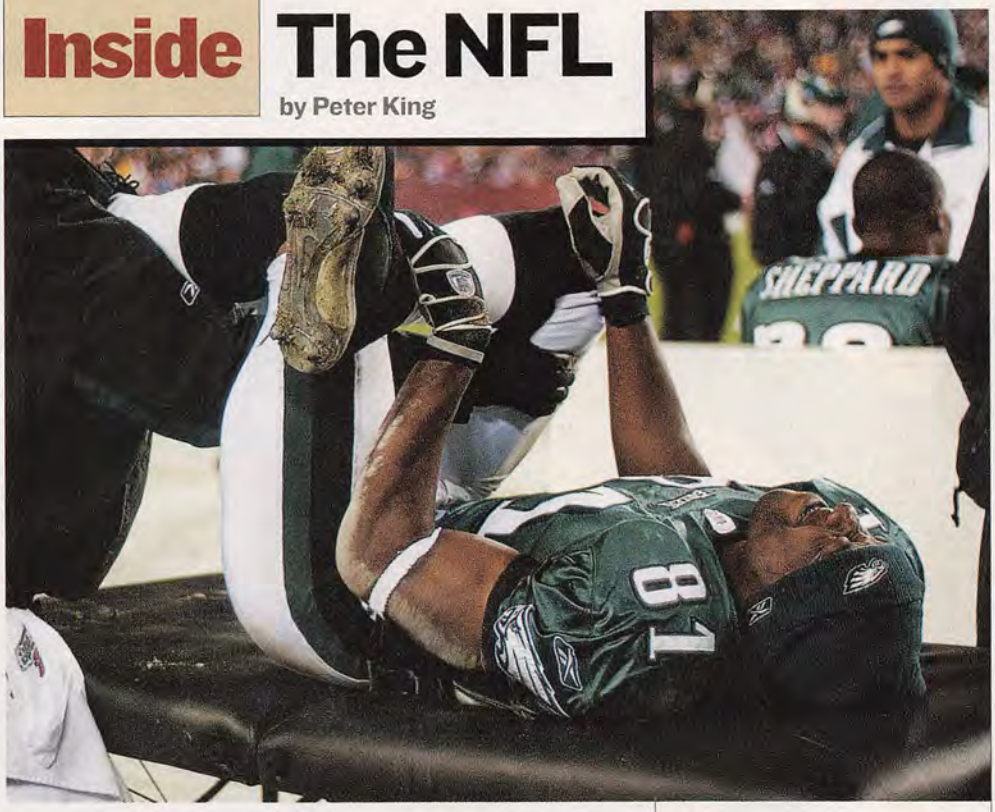
PAINFUL FALL Eagles star wideout Terrell Owens was likely lost for the season with injuries to his right ankle and leg, suffered when he was pulled down by the Cowboys' Roy Williams during Philadelphia's 12–7 win on Sunday (page 60).

Photograph by Michael Perez/Philadelphia Inquirer

Inside

The Week In Sports

by Peter King



SI.com/football

DEEP LOSS Owens, who led the league with 14 TD catches, stretched opposing defenses.

Tough Break

The Eagles will miss TO, but they're still in better shape for their run at the Super Bowl than they were a year ago

THOUGH HE was still feeling the effects of the anesthesia following surgery to repair torn ligaments in his right ankle on Monday, Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens started calling teammates from the recovery room of a Baltimore hospital. He speed-dialed wideout Todd Pinkston, then receiver Freddie Mitchell and quarterback Donovan McNabb. "Hey," Owens told one sympathetic player after another. "Nothing's going to slow us down. Not even this."

A franchise, and a city, feeling cursed by the football gods can only hope he's right. After losing the NFC Championship Game three straight years, the Eagles were on their way to becoming the Bills of the new millennium. But the arrival of Owens in a trade last March with the 49ers not only gave Philadelphia a 6' 3" deep threat that McNabb had sorely lacked, but also added swagger. This was the year the Eagles were going to waltz to the Super Bowl—until Sunday, when Cowboys safety Roy Williams dragged down Owens from behind early in the third quarter.

The wideout's right ankle and knee were bent awkwardly beneath him, resulting in the torn ligaments—after getting a second opinion in Baltimore, a screw was surgically inserted into the ankle—and a fracture of the right leg a few inches below the knee. Eagles trainer Rick Burkholder said there's "an outside chance" Owens could be ready for the Super Bowl on Feb. 6, if the Eagles make it that far.

HURTING Owens walked off the field, but bad news came on Monday.

This much is clear: Philadelphia will have to win the NFC without Owens, who has 77 catches for 1,200 yards and an NFL-high 14 touchdowns. On Monday night coach Andy Reid said, "There's no way" the team would try to rush Owens back for the conference title game, on Jan. 23.

The knee-jerk reaction is to say the Eagles are right back where they were a year ago, when the offense struggled in a 20–17 overtime win over the Packers in the divisional playoffs, then looked awful in a 14–3 loss to the Panthers. But making that assumption wouldn't be fair. Last year versatile running back Brian Westbrook was lost in the regular-season finale with a torn triceps; over the last six games this year he had as many receiving yards (450) as Owens had. Philadelphia still lacks a between-the-tackles running back, often going with short passes instead of runs on first down, but Westbrook leads all NFL backs with 73 catches. "We're going to continue to use him a lot of different ways to get him the ball in the open field," Reid said.

True, the downfield passing game is hurt badly by Owens's injury. But look for Greg Lewis, an undrafted second-year player out of Illinois with 16 career catches, to split time with Mitchell and immediately become a favorite target of McNabb's. Pinkston, at the other wideout spot, has shown alligator arms of late, and the 6-foot, 180-pound Lewis is a more physical receiver than Pinkston.

Also, because the rest of the NFC is so weak this season, Philadelphia (13–1) still has a better chance to get to the Super Bowl—even without Owens—than it did last year. Having clinched the East title and home field throughout the NFC playoffs, the Eagles get a bye the first week, then a divisional-round foe (a struggling team such as the Seahawks or the Vikings) they should easily dispatch. Their most formidable opponent would appear to be the Falcons (11–3), whom they wouldn't face until the conference championship game. Said Reid, "We'll rely on players like [defensive end] Jevon Kearse, [linebacker] Jeremiah Trotter and Brian Westbrook, who weren't playing for us a year ago either."

DEFENSIVE LEADER

Edwards Gives Chargers a Jolt

In a 31–24 win over the Bucs on Dec. 12, San Diego linebacker Donnie Edwards had perhaps the finest game by an NFL linebacker this season—16 tackles,

RANDY LITZINGER/ICON SMI (TOP); AL TIELEMANS

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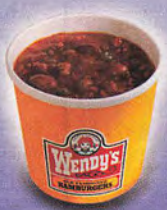

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King's Corner

HOT TOPIC

The NFL's annual awards will be announced by the Associated Press starting on Jan. 5. Here's who I think will get the major pieces of hardware:

MVP Peyton Manning, QB, Colts. More of a runaway than the Eagles in the NFC East.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer, Chargers. Edges the Pats' Bill Belichick with a career-best performance.

Offensive Player Manning.

Defensive Player Ed Reed, S, Ravens. Heir to Ray Lewis as the focal point of Baltimore's defense.

Offensive Rookie Ben Roethlisberger, QB, Steelers. It might be unanimous.

Defensive Rookie Jonathan Vilma *(above)*, LB, Jets. Signal-caller for a terrific unit.

BY THE NUMBERS

Dallas and Philadelphia have faced off 91 times in 44 seasons. The Eagles' 49–21 win on Nov. 15 was the highest-scoring game in the series, and Philly's 12–7 victory on Sunday was the lowest-scoring game between the two teams.

MATCHUP OF THE WEEK

Pittsburgh versus Baltimore (Sunday) and at Buffalo (Jan. 2). The Steelers' top-ranked run defense (80.9 yards per game) will be tested first by Jamal Lewis and then by Willis McGahee. When Pittsburgh lost 320-pound Pro Bowl nosetackle Casey Hampton because of a knee injury on Oct. 17, the run defense appeared to be in big trouble. But in stepped undrafted fourth-year player Chris Hoke *(above)*, and in his first eight starts the Steelers allowed only 512 rushing yards. With great backs such as LaDainian Tomlinson and Corey Dillon looming in the playoffs, Hoke and his linemates figure to be challenged every week.

THREE POINTS

1. If I were a Titans fan, I wouldn't get apoplectic if oft-injured Steve McNair decides to retire. Billy Volek *(left)* is good enough to be at least a mid-level NFL quarterback, and with cap numbers of $1.3 million, $3.3 million and $3.5 million over the next three seasons, he gives overextended Tennessee the chance to spend money on players at other positions.

2. Peyton Manning is having a season for the ages, to be sure. But as too often happens, great years from other eras are forgotten. As a quarterback and defensive back, the Redskins' Sammy Baugh led the league in completions, interceptions and punting in 1943.

3. There is no question that the so-called "shutdown corner" will be devalued in the 2005 draft from recent years. The strict enforcement of the no-contact rule is making even Pro Bowlers such as Champ Bailey and Chris McAlister appear ordinary at times.

Peter King's Monday Morning Quarterback, every week at **SI.com/football**.

two interceptions (one returned for the game-winning touchdown) and four pass deflections. It was the kind of game a great linebacker plays, and that's exactly how Edwards, a nine-year veteran, wants to be pegged. But as he watched a highlight show the night after the Tampa Bay game, Edwards heard himself described as "underrated"—a term he has come to loathe.

"How many years will I be called underrated?" says Edwards, the centerpiece of the Chargers' defense. This is his eighth 100-tackle season in nine years as a pro with the Chiefs and the Chargers, but he's never been voted to a Pro Bowl. "Some day, if all the stars align right, maybe I'll get some recognition," says the 6' 2", 227-pound Edwards. "I lead my team in tackles every year. I play every play. I think I've been pretty consistent—16 tackles against Tampa, 20 against Denver [on Dec. 5]."

MR. COOL Edwards celebrated after San Diego (11–3) clinched the AFC West on Sunday.

Though he is playing in a 3–4 scheme for the first time in his career, Edwards, at right inside linebacker, is using his quickness and lateral movement to make more of an impact than anyone else on the unit. "In this defense the big plays are there to be made, and he's making them," says coach Marty Schottenheimer. Edwards, who had seven tackles and an interception in a 21–0 win over the Browns on Sunday, has missed one play all year, when he suffered a neck stinger against Tampa Bay.

A slew of AFC inside linebackers are having stellar seasons, including the Steelers' James Farrior, the Patriots' Tedy Bruschi, the Jets' Jonathan Vilma and the omnipresent Ray Lewis of the Ravens. Aside from Farrior, however, it's doubtful any of them has made as many big plays as Edwards.

NINERS' ERIC JOHNSON

Stock Rises For Yale Grad

Through the gloom of the 49ers' worst season in a generation there has been one improbable bright spot: Eric Johnson, a seventh-round draft pick out of Yale in 2001, is having the best pass-receiving season ever by a San Francisco tight end. He has already broken team records for his position in catches (77) and yards (780).

The 6' 3" 250-pounder has come a long way since his rookie year, when he remembers an opponent chiding him, "You should be on Wall Street, kid. What are you doing here?" A precise route runner with soft hands, Johnson missed all of last season with a fractured collarbone but with the line in tatters and wideout Brandon Lloyd struggling to develop as a consistent deep threat, the Niners have gone to shorter drops and emphasized the intermediate passing game.

"You want to break out of that stereotype that Ivy Leaguers can't play in the NFL," says Johnson. "I wasn't recruited by the big schools coming out of high school [in Needham, Mass.], but it was great that I went to Yale. If I'd gone to a school like Miami, I never would have played."

Running his final draft as San Francisco's general manager in 2001, Bill Walsh pushed for the team to take Johnson, though he wasn't getting much support from anyone else in the room. Johnson, it turned out, would be Walsh's final draft pick for the organization. "It's such an honor," Johnson says, "to be the last pick by a legend." □

DAVID BERGMAN (VILMA); TOM BRIGLIA/WIREIMAGE.COM (HOKE); NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES (VOLEK); JAY LAPRETE/US PRESSWIRE (EDWARDS)

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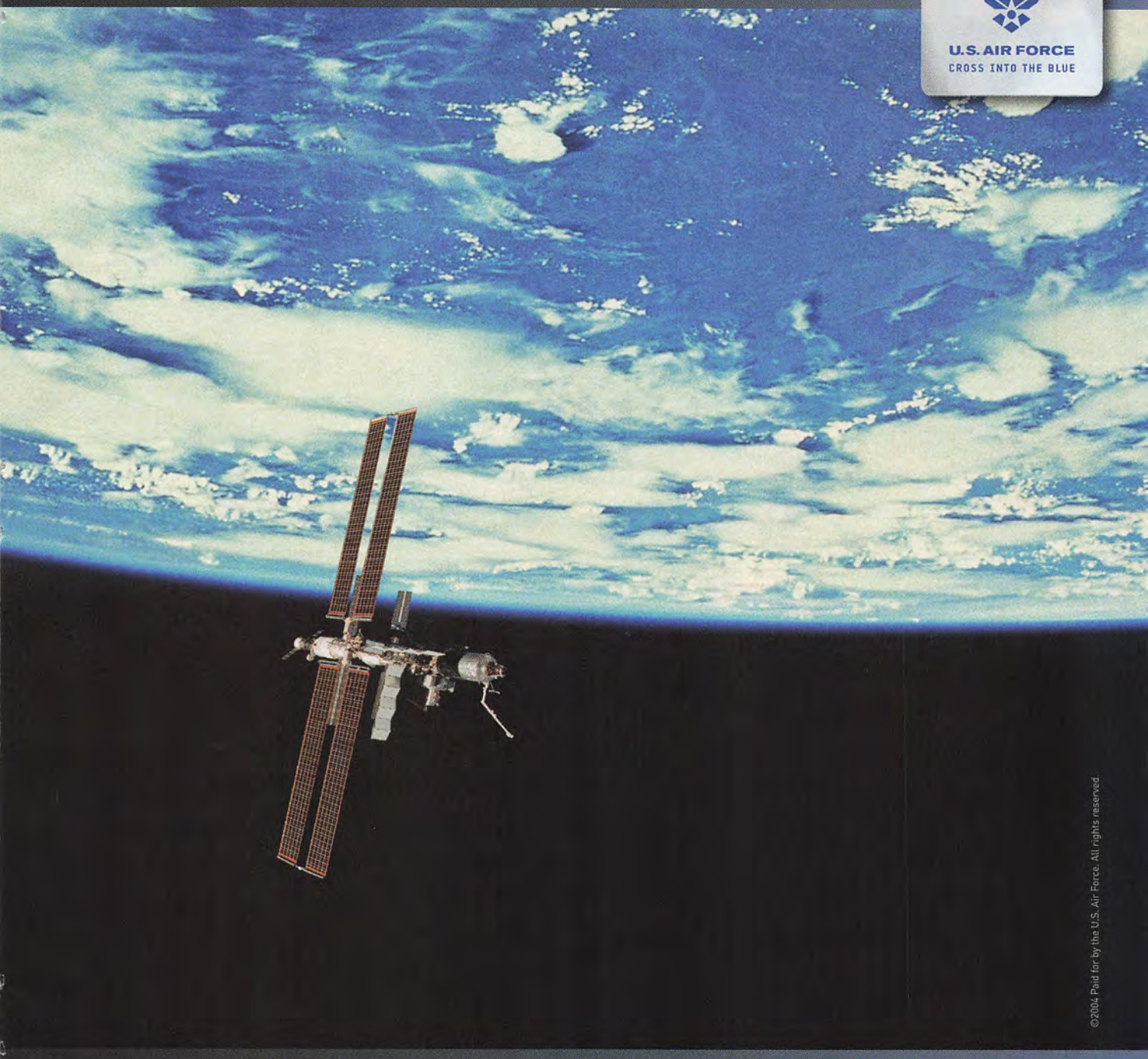

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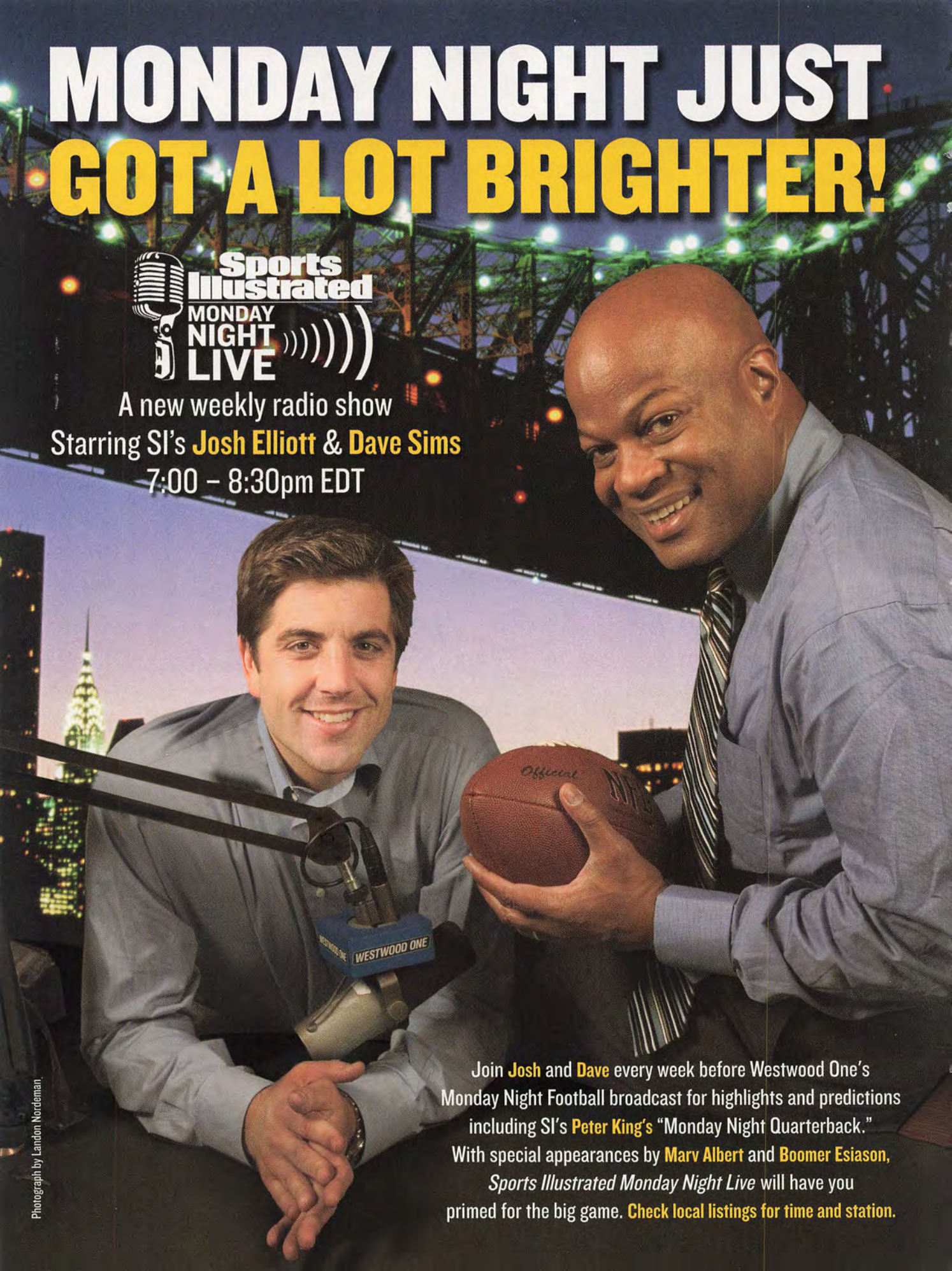

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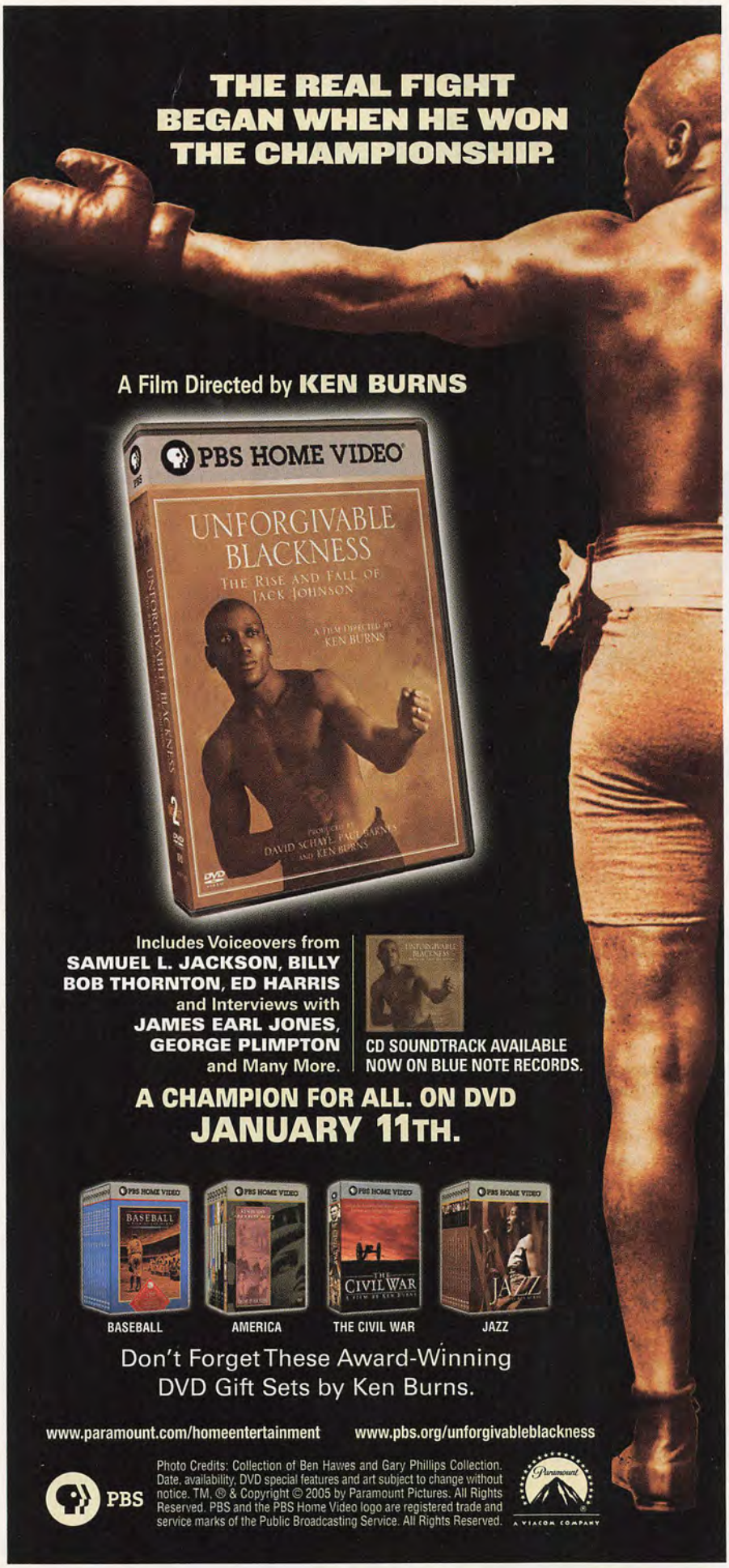
Photograph by Landon Nordeman.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through Sunday, the Bluejays were 18–2 with him in the lineup and 10–9 without him. "Tyler's a glue guy who doesn't make mistakes," says coach Dana Altman. "I don't think it's a fluke that those numbers add up the way they do."

Now back up to speed in school and hoops, the 6' 1", 185-pound McKinney, a marketing major, has a new outlook as well. "I appreciate little things a lot more," he says. "Even being able to practice." And you'll never hear anyone say he lacks focus on the court.

PARTNERSHIP UNVEILED

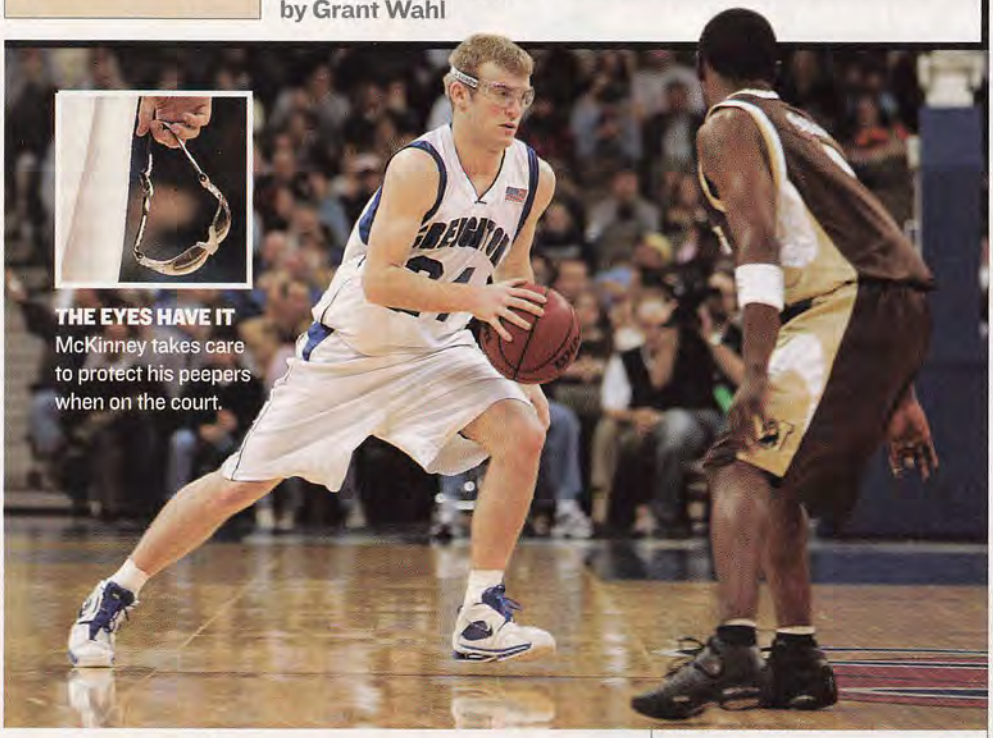
Players Get Short Shrift

The group that was introduced last week at Madison Square Garden as the College Basketball Partnership is certainly impressive. The 27-member panel, which has met twice over the past nine months, includes prominent coaches, athletic department administrators, television executives and NCAA officials—most notably NCAA president Myles Brand, who described the group as an "incubator of ideas" that will address all issues relating to college basketball. Said former Big East commissioner and CBP member Dave Gavitt, "The beauty is we have everybody around the table now for the first time ever."

There is, however, one conspicuous absence: a player representative. That is disheartening given the CBP's stated purpose: to better serve the 5,000-plus student athletes who play Division I men's basketball. Brand should be lauded for his efforts to reach out to coaches—it was shocking to hear Syracuse's Jim Boeheim say that Brand was the first NCAA president he has met in 35 years of coaching—but he should reach out to players as well. A good first step would be to revive the Student Basketball Council, which was launched by the National Association of Basketball Coaches with great fanfare in the spring of 2000. After holding just two meetings and two conference calls in its first two years, the SBC was disbanded largely because NCAA rules prohibit the NABC from covering SBC members' transportation expenses. Brand should find a way around that provision to make sure players have a voice, and then add one or two of its members to the CBP (which will next meet at the Final Four in St. Louis). Only then will it truly have everyone around its table. —*Seth Davis*

Inside College Basketball

by Grant Wahl



THE EYES HAVE IT McKinney takes care to protect his peepers when on the court.

Vision Quest

Creighton's Tyler McKinney nearly lost the sight in his right eye. Now he's back hitting game-winning shots

LAST MARCH, Tyler McKinney sat in a doctor's office and listened to a pep talk unlike any he'd heard on a basketball court: *Tyler, lots of people have had successful lives with one eye.* The Creighton point guard's heart sank. On the eve of his second cornea transplant, McKinney had already lost so much: his junior season, 25 pounds, his tolerance for light and, not least, nearly all the vision in his ravaged right eye. "I couldn't see my hand in front of my face," he says. "I really thought I would lose my eye."

Nine months later McKinney is not only playing again for the Bluejays, who were a surprising 8–2 through Sunday, but he had also hit game-winning shots in upsets of Ohio State and Xavier. "I wasn't even expecting to play four months ago, so to be in this position now is crazy," says McKinney, who has made a remarkable comeback from an acanthamoeba infection, which can result when a water-borne parasite enters the eye through an abrasion. (McKinney thinks he contracted the infection by using tap water to clean out his contact lens case during a preseason trip to Canada last year.)

McKinney's symptoms seemed innocuous at first—the eye was red and itchy—and doctors allowed him to keep playing. But his condition deteriorated quickly. On Christmas Day 2003, he screamed in pain after a camera flash went off, and in an early January game at Bradley his vision was so bad that he stepped three feet out-of-bounds while driving the baseline. Unable to endure light, McKinney lay in bed 18 hours a day, rousing himself every 25 minutes around the clock to administer eyedrops. Playing basketball wasn't even remotely possible. "It was probably among the worst 10 percent of cases I've ever seen," says Dr. John Sutphin, the specialist who finally performed McKinney's cornea transplants at the University of Iowa medical center.

When the infection recurred following the first transplant last March, McKinney began taking pentamidine, an IV medication normally given to AIDS and cancer patients. Side effects included severe nausea and weight loss, and he hit his low point during a tearful call home to his parents, Jim and Judy. "I don't care if they have to take my eye out," he told them. "I just don't want to deal with it anymore." The second transplant was successful, however, and McKinney recovered so quickly that doctors waived the yearlong ban on contact sports that customarily follows such surgery.

Jim and Judy shed their own tears when Tyler was introduced at Creighton's 2004 home opener and received a standing ovation from the crowd at Omaha's Qwest Center. Granted, there were some scares: McKinney had surgery in June to separate the iris and the cornea, which had become stuck together, contorting the pupil; and in November, with the help of a steroid injection directly into his eye, he overcame a brief rejection of the second cornea. Otherwise, McKinney's main irritants have been the hecklers at Nebraska who wore Rec-Specs and waved eye charts at him in a display that rivaled those of notorious Maryland fans in its tastelessness. (McKinney responded by assisting on Creighton's game-winning shot.)

McKinney's individual statistics aren't eye-popping (5.0 points and 6.2 assists in 32.7 minutes a game at week's end), but the numbers that count most are terrific: From the start of last season

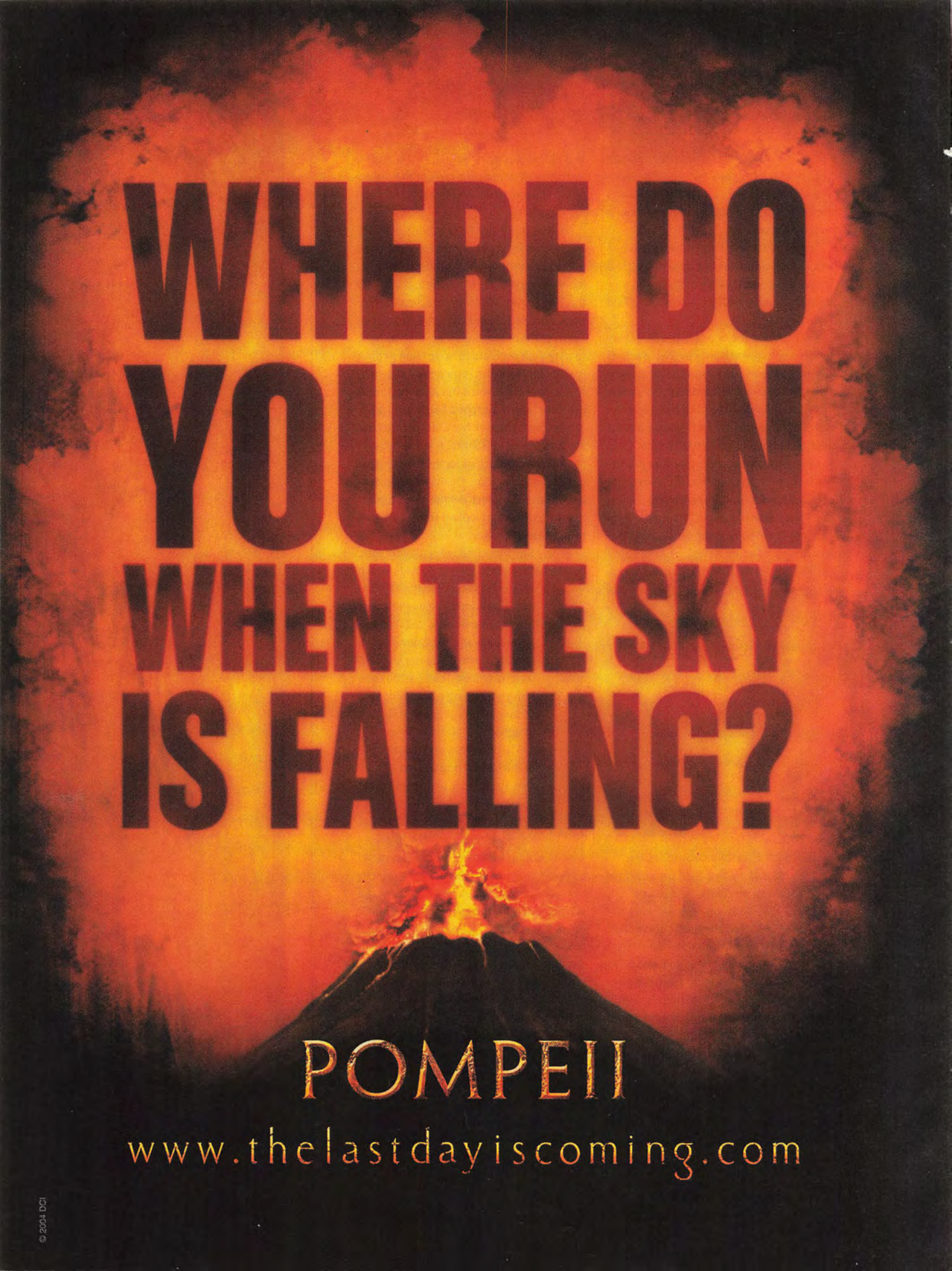
Three-Pointer

1 Expect **USC** to find a new coach quickly. Trojans officials want to replace Rick Majerus before senior associate athletic director Daryl Gross leaves to become AD at Syracuse in late January. Early speculation centers on former Iowa State coach Tim Floyd.

2 **Salim Stoudamire** needs to grow up. The Arizona guard, who has had attitude problems since coming to Tucson, was suspended for last Saturday's game at Marquette for "failure to meet team responsibilities as a senior captain." The Wildcats proved they can win without him, and they will do so again if they have to.

3 The NCAA should divulge its **RPI formula.** Last week's announcement that road games will count more in the RPI (as they should) was undercut by the NCAA's silly insistence on keeping the formula secret. —S.D.

DAVID E. KLUTHO (2)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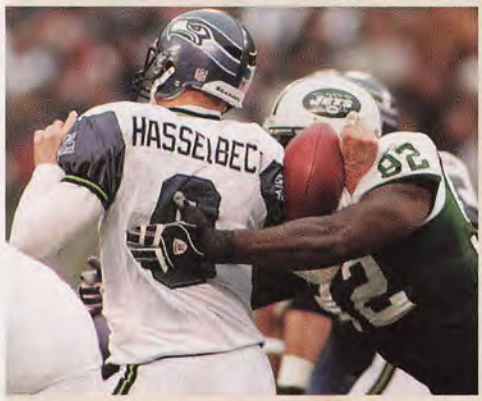
Dr. Z's Forecast

Here's the latest news from the ravaged NFC, where a desperate struggle is under way to see who will be the first team with a losing record to make the playoffs in a nonstrike year.

The Panthers, entering the weekend 6–7 and in good shape to hold off a mob of 5–8 teams, gave up 10 late points to the Falcons and blew their hard-earned lead last Saturday night.

That opened the door for the 5–8 Buccaneers, with home games against the 5–8 Saints and then the Panthers, to make a move for the last wild-card spot. So Tampa Bay blew a 10-point lead to New Orleans in the last four minutes on Sunday and let the Saints sneak back into the race.

Meanwhile, things were heating up in the battle for first place in the NFC West. The 7–6 Seahawks, holding grimly to a one-game lead over the Rams, got run over by the Jets in an early game on Sunday. Euphoric over Seattle's defeat, St. Louis took the field later in the day and got slaughtered by Arizona 31–7. Now the Cardinals, at 5–9, have a shot at the division title—and if they win it, there would be the phenomenon of a losing team's not only getting into the playoffs but also hosting a first-round game.



BUMBLING Hasselbeck and fading Seattle, routed by the Jets on Sunday, appear ripe to be upset by Arizona.

So let's try to wade through this swamp and handicap what's coming up in the NFC, which is down to four teams with winning records. The two clubs with the best records, Philadelphia (13–1) and Atlanta (11–3), are the ones everybody wants to play because the Eagles and the Falcons have accomplished all that they can in the regular season. They will be the Nos. 1 and 2 playoff seeds, respectively, no matter what happens the last two weeks of the season, and both teams will be resting people.

Therefore, **I'll pick the woebegone Rams,** who are as far in the dumps as a team can get, to beat the Eagles' junior varsity on Monday night. Using the same logic, I'll take the **Saints** over whatever reserves the Falcons choose to send out on Sunday. I've heard all the propaganda—how teams have to play their regulars to keep from getting rusty, etc.—but the regulars on the field will be looking toward the sideline to see just how long their tour of duty will last.

Here's a big upset: the **Cardinals** to beat the Seahawks in Seattle. I sense a fire in the Arizona players that seems to have gone out of Seattle's. Plus, Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck left the game against the Jets with what looked to be an injury to his throwing elbow.

Green Bay has clinched a playoff spot, but the NFC North title is still at stake. Which makes Packers-Vikings on Christmas Eve a crucial game of sorts. This is a hard one to call. The last game between the teams was a shootout, with 65 points and 858 yards of offense. I can see the same thing happening again, and I kind of favor the **Vikings** in that sort of action.

Carolina remains my favorite in the losers' bracket, so I'll take the **Panthers** in an upset at Tampa Bay.

In the AFC, where nine teams have winning records, the No. 1 seed is still up for grabs. But once a team has won its division, I don't think the jockeying for position is as big a spur for the players as it is for the guys who write about them. Therefore, I'll take the **Ravens**, battling mightily for a playoff berth, to upset the Steelers in Pittsburgh. And just as that one is ending, the Patriots, delirious over their good fortune, will take the field in New Jersey against a determined Jets team and—can I really pick all three elite teams to lose? I can and I will—suffer an upset. The **Jets** will win it. Finally, there's the battle for the AFC's third seed between a pair of 11–3 teams, San Diego and Indianapolis. The game's in the RCA Dome. The **Colts** win it.

—Paul Zimmerman

Last week: 5–2 **Season: 78–48**

DAVID BERGMAN

Look for Dr. Z's Week 17 picks at **SI.com/football.**

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LINCOLN

by Kelley King

A Wing and a Prayer

Thanks to his perseverance and sterling right arm, junior QB Alex Smith of surprising Utah is SI's Player of the Year

UTE THE MAN Smith's offensive wizardry lifted Utah to an unprecedented Fiesta Bowl berth.

HE SET out hoping to keep his starting job and wound up leading a team into uncharted territory. In his first full season as a starter, junior quarterback Alex Smith guided Utah to an 11–0 record and the Fiesta Bowl, as the Utes became the first non-BCS school to earn a BCS berth. Smith was not only the NCAA's second-most-efficient passer, completing 66.1% of his throws for 2,624 yards and 28 touchdowns, but also a dangerous threat as a runner, piling up 563 yards and 10 TDs. "Without Alex, we're not the same team," says departing coach Urban Meyer, who probably would not have been hired by Florida were it not for Smith's superb performance. "In my mind he's the best quarterback in the nation."

Smith did not strike the Heisman voters as such; he finished fourth in the voting, behind two quarterbacks with comparable statistics, USC's Matt Leinart (the winner) and Oklahoma's Jason White. But Smith more than impressed us. For his flawless leadership, exceptional play and uncommon scholarship (Smith entered Utah with 64 AP credits and earned an economics degree in two years, graduating with a 3.74 GPA last May), Alex Smith is SI's Player of the Year.

Like most of his fellow Utes, Smith was overlooked by major college recruiters. After his career at Helix High in La Mesa, Calif., he received scholarship offers from only two Division I-A schools: Utah, which was then coached by Ron McBride, and Louisville, where Smith's uncle John L. Smith was in charge. When Meyer arrived in Salt Lake City in December 2002, Alex Smith began to devour the massive playbook for the coach's explosive spread-option attack. He became the starter three games into the 2003 season and led the Utes to a 9–1 finish, throwing for 15 touchdowns. "By this summer," says Smith, "the game had really started to slow down for me."

Consequently, his production picked up. Behind Smith's five touchdowns—three through the air, two on the ground—Utah clobbered the Big 12's Texas A&M 41–21 to open the season. The Utes also scored decisive victories over major-conference opponents Arizona and North Carolina, with Smith throwing for 341 yards and four TDs (and adding another on the ground) against the Tar Heels. Overwhelmed by Smith's pinpoint passing and cunning play fakes, non-BCS teams yielded an average of almost 50 points to Utah, which has set a school single-season record with 509 points.

Smith's most memorable performance may have come on Nov. 13 at Wyoming's War Memorial Stadium. Because of a power outage the stadium was dimly lit, but Smith was electrifying. Demonstrating what offensive coordinator Mike Sanford calls "incredible game feel," Smith completed 17 of 27 passes for three touchdowns and ran for a 27-yard score in the gloaming as Utah rolled 45–28.

Two weeks ago, in Manhattan for the Heisman presentation, Smith enjoyed his tour of the Big Apple, even though he had little hope of leaving with anything more than an I ♥ NY T-shirt or a miniature Statue of Liberty. "I was just happy to be here," he said after the ceremony. "Anything else was going to be icing on the cake." For Utah fans, his return next fall would be sweeter still. With his bachelor's degree in hand and his coach off to Gainesville, the 6' 4", 212-pound Smith is contemplating skipping his senior season and entering the NFL draft. Whenever he leaves Salt Lake City, a college game with too few true student-athletes will have lost a remarkable one. □

USC VS. OKLAHOMA
Key Orange Bowl Matchups

THE FRESHMEN Both offenses need big contributions from their go-to rookies, but Oklahoma stands a better chance of containing wideout **Dwayne Jarrett** than USC does of bottling up running back **Adrian Peterson**, who'll be out to show the world he deserved the Heisman. *Edge: Sooners*

REGGIE B VS. SOONERS' D USC sophomore **Reggie** (the President) **Bush** will line up at tailback, in the slot, split wide. Mismatches happen. Just when you think you've got him stopped, he'll hurt you on a kick return. As Bush tells his mother before games, "I'm gonna get mine." *Edge: El Presidente*

THE BATTLE INSIDE Oklahoma's **Vince Carter** is a terrific center. USC's **Mike Patterson** is a better noseguard. Sooners quarterback **Jason White** will come to know what the Trojan ate for lunch. *Edge: USC*

THE INTANGIBLES Four years ago Oklahoma quarterback Josh Heupel was beaten out by Florida State's Chris Weinke for the Heisman, then outplayed him in the Orange Bowl to lead the Sooners to the national championship. Earlier this month, Oklahoma quarterback **Jason White** was beaten out by USC's **Matt Leinart** for the Heisman, then. . . .

PREDICTION: *Sooners by a field goal* —*Austin Murphy*

DOUGLAS C. PIZAC/AP; AUGUST MILLER/DESERET MORNING NEWS/AP (INSET)

end, the departure of frontcourt defenders Alonzo Mourning, Eric Williams and Aaron Williams to Toronto—combined with the sign-and-trade of Kenyon Martin to Denver last summer that so angered Kidd—leaves New Jersey utterly defenseless around the basket. If Kidd is serious about playing for a contender, then he will continue to press management for a trade as soon as he's proved that he's recovered from off-season left knee surgery.

Which isn't to say that the deal wasn't a steal for Nets president Rod Thorn, who now has three stars—Kidd, Carter and Richard Jefferson—he can swap. The trade also shows that owner Bruce Ratner realizes an attractive team will facilitate his goal of moving the franchise to Brooklyn. Though the Raptors received two of the three draft picks New Jersey got in the Martin trade, Thorn held onto perhaps the most valuable choice: the Clippers', which isn't lottery-protected in 2006.

WELL-SUITED Once his left Achilles tendon heals, Carter should be a major Nets gain.

The trade represents an impulsive shift in strategy for the Raptors. If their plan had been to move Carter, then they should have used their No. 8 pick last June on a promising replacement like Andre Iguodola or Luke Jackson instead of wasting it on center Rafael Araujo. Five years ago the team had Carter and Tracy McGrady. Now both are gone, with very little to show in return.

MIKE CASSESE/REUTERS (CARTER); ERIC GAY/AP (IVERSON); KEVIN REECE/ICON SMI (WILLIAMS)

MOVEMENT IN MEMPHIS

Heisley and West May Exit

Looking to buy an NBA franchise? Michael Heisley owns a team in Memphis with a deep, young roster and the league's newest arena. "We've tried for three years to get some people in Memphis to buy it," says Heisley, who in 2000 purchased the Vancouver Grizzlies for $160 million and moved them to the league's smallest market a year later. "We've now decided we'll try to see if there's somebody outside of Memphis who might also be interested."

Based on sales over the past two years—the Suns for $401 million, the Celtics for $360 million and a reported $375 million offer for the Cavaliers—Heisley could recoup some of his operating losses over the past four years. But the Grizzlies' ownership isn't the only thing up in the air. After winning a club record 50 games last season, Hubie Brown announced his retirement on Thanksgiving, citing health problems. He was replaced by Mike Fratello, who has tried to shorten Brown's 10-man rotation only to find that many of his players lacked the conditioning to play extended minutes. The injury-riddled Grizzlies were 11–15 at week's end.

Then there's the status of 66-year-old team president Jerry West, who according to league sources is planning to retire after this season. Says Heisley, "When Jerry came here [in April 2002], he said, 'I'll give it three to four years.' " Heisley is willing to be flexible to keep West on board. "I've talked to him about being part of the ownership of the team," Heisley says. "But Jerry is his own man, and he makes his own decisions. I don't know any more than you know, and I can tell you anybody writing about it doesn't know what the hell they're talking about because Jerry doesn't tell anybody what he's thinking." □

Ian Thomsen's Fast Break

AROUND THE RIM

Hockey fans' apathetic reaction to the NHL lockout has served as a warning to NBA owners and players that they can't afford to let labor negotiations interrupt the 2005–06 season. While there may be a short lockout should talks continue into the summer, influential reps on both sides are vowing to reach a deal in time to save the entire season. . . . Though the Celtics' lease at the nine-year-old FleetCenter runs through 2011, a league source says that the team has hired Denver-based consultant **Tim Romani** to look into developing a new arena in the Boston area. . . . Why had scoring risen to 95.6 points per team at week's end, 2.2 points more than last season? Because refs are calling the game more tightly on the perimeter, resulting in 3.9 more free throws per game. . . . The 76ers are hoping that **Allen Iverson** *(above)* will warm up now that the team has closed the doors to the loading area of the Wachovia Center, which should raise the temperature inside by several degrees. Says the Answer of his once frigid confines, "My hands never thawed out the whole game."

WHO IS . . . MAURICE (MO) WILLIAMS?

Taken 43rd in the 2003 draft after leaving Alabama as a sophomore, the 6′ 1″ Williams improved enough in the Jazz's point guard–friendly system to earn a three-year, $5.3 million free-agent contract from the Bucks last summer. "I liked his quickness going coast to coast, his ability to get in the paint, his willingness to take the big shot," says Milwaukee coach **Terry Porter**. "He was a guy we could mold." With **T.J. Ford** out indefinitely after neck surgery, Williams had started all 21 games and ranked 12th in assists (6.7 per game) through Sunday. "At the beginning of the season I was playing not to make a mistake," says Williams, whose left biceps is tattooed with the Planters logo, a nod to his childhood nickname, Peanut. "I'm more comfortable now."

BUZZER BEATERS

3. **Andrei Kirilenko's** value has become more obvious in his absence: The Jazz started 8–6, but since he sprained his right knee on Nov. 27, it had gone 2–9 at week's end.

2. A surprise contender for the No. 1 pick in 2005 is North Carolina sixth man **Marvin Williams.** The 6′ 9″, 230-pound freshman is a versatile scorer who is showcasing an A-plus attitude by coming off the bench without complaint.

1. Isn't it obvious that **Kobe Bryant** is starving for solid, responsible advice? Instead of following the path of **Michael Jordan**, Bryant is on his way to becoming the next **Isiah Thomas**—the most misunderstood star of his generation.

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National Recreation and Park Association

Healthy Lifestyles, Livable Communities

by Ian Thomsen

FORWARDS MARCH Can Webber (above) help reverse Stojakovic's shooting slide?

Tangled Webb

The Kings have gotten off to a solid start, but the chemistry between their two stars remains a work in progress

THE PROBLEM has been we're so happy-go-lucky," Chris Webber complained to *The Sacramento Bee* last summer. Consider that problem solved. Kings All-Star forward Peja Stojakovic has yet to rescind his trade request. Rick Adelman remains a lame-duck coach despite entering this season with a 301–159 (.656) record in six years at Sacramento. And it is hard to count on a healthy Webber, who admits he was "really scared" in preseason when his surgically repaired left knee prevented him from dunking.

Don't put too much stock in a run of 15 wins in 18 games; the Kings (16–7 at week's end) have struggled to find their offensive rhythm. A 115–99 loss last Thursday to the Lakers was their worst home defeat since 1998. "We're going to be up and down all year," says Adelman, noting that he has five rookies and second-year men on his once dependable bench.

The Kings are used to controversy generated by Webber—but not by Stojakovic. Though he has never cited his reasons for requesting a trade last July, two seem obvious: the exit of his mentor, Vlade Divac, who signed a free-agent contract with the Lakers, and Webber's questioning the toughness of unnamed teammates after a second-round playoff loss to Minnesota. A less apparent but more important reason is that, after averaging a career-high 24.2 points last season, Stojakovic wanted his teammates—Webber in particular—to know that without Divac around he would speak up for himself if he believed his role was being diminished.

At week's end Stojakovic had struggled to justify his marquee billing: The league's most renowned marksman was averaging just 19.9 points while shooting 44.0%, a six-year low. Webber says their relationship hasn't been an issue since he approached Stojakovic on the opening day of camp. "I let him know there's nobody else [I'd rather] play with," says Webber, who denies he was aiming his postseason potshot at Stojakovic. Says Peja, "He just wanted to make sure we were O.K., that we didn't have any problems. It was short."

While Stojakovic and Webber appear comfortable off the court, they're not meshing on it. With Divac gone, it's Webber's job to make sure that Stojakovic's skills are being fully exploited. Webber has put up amazing numbers for a hobbled power forward who missed 59 games last year: 20.5 points per game, 9.6 rebounds and 5.3 assists at week's end. The stronger his knee and the better his mobility, the more he will be able to help set up his most talented teammate. "I'm still learning my body," says Webber. "I think I will be able to play above the rim consistently off one leg."

Lingering adversity may prove to be a blessing for the Kings, forcing them to scrap for ugly victories and work together to overcome their defensive weaknesses. At week's end they ranked 16th in field goal defense, permitting opponents to shoot 43.6%. If that number shrinks, then you'll know they're sincere about uniting for one last run at a title.

VINCE CARTER TRADE

Too Little to Keep Kidd?

The Nets' surprising acquisition of Vince Carter last Friday isn't likely to persuade Jason Kidd to rescind his demand for a trade. While Carter will upgrade an offense that ranked last at week's

Scout's Take

On the struggling **Pistons** (12–10 at week's end):

"The one guy who is playing as well as he was last year is Rip Hamilton. Otherwise, Rasheed Wallace has been hurt, Ben Wallace has been suspended, and Chauncey Billups hasn't been making those big shots. As a group they just seemed a lot hungrier last season, and they got more out of Mehmet Okur and Corliss Williamson than they're getting now from Antonio McDyess. Can they get out of the East? Yeah, because they have the most talent in their conference. Will they win it all? Absolutely not—the Spurs are a much better team."

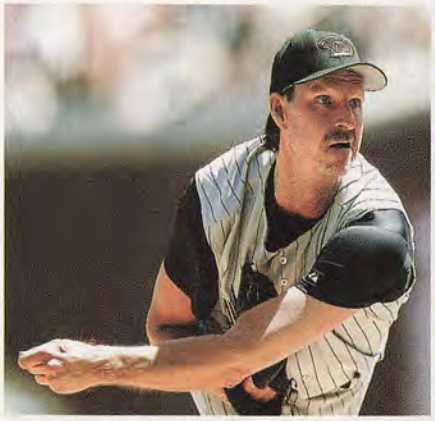
(2) JOHN W. MCDONOUGH

Inside Baseball

by Albert Chen

Shuffling Aces

While the A's were dealing away two top pitchers, the Braves and the Yankees were busy stacking their decks



HEADED EAST Three 2004 playoff teams looked to fill holes in their rotations with (from left) Johnson, Clement and Mulder.

A WHIRLWIND WEEK, in which he had remade his team's starting rotation into one of the National League's most formidable, had ended, but there wasn't a hint of weariness in John Schuerholz's voice on Sunday. "It's been a very busy, very challenging time for us," the longtime Braves general manager said, "but also very, very exhilarating."

The feeling was mutual among a handful of G.M.'s of other pennant contenders, after four of the game's premier starters—all ranked in the top five in winning percentage among active pitchers, and the owners of eight Cy Young Awards combined—either changed teams or appeared poised to do so. Last Thursday, Schuerholz made a trade with the A's for righthander Tim Hudson, a former 20-game winner, and the Mets introduced their prize free-agent signee, former Red Sox ace righthander Pedro Martinez. On Saturday the Cardinals acquired lefthander Mark Mulder, a 17-game winner last year, in a trade with the A's. And at week's end a three-team, 10-player deal was in the works that would send Diamondbacks' lefthander Randy Johnson to the Yankees.

"It's extremely difficult for these [blockbuster deals] to happen," Schuerholz said. "But the aces have the biggest contracts, and as teams seek financial flexibility, they see that trading their aces is a way to provide that."

The Braves went into the offseason intent on upgrading a rotation that led the NL with a 3.74 ERA, then was shelled in the postseason by the Astros. "Our starters did a great job for us last year, but we wanted to get back to the old-fashioned Braves' way of building championship teams with dominant starting pitching," says Schuerholz. Instead of re-signing free-agent starters Russ Ortiz, Jaret Wright and Paul Byrd, Atlanta spent the money on Hudson and All-Star closer Dan Kolb, who was acquired in a Dec. 11 trade with the Brewers. The Kolb deal frees starter-turned-closer John Smoltz to return to the rotation, where he won 157 games from 1988 through '99. The remaining spot is to be filled by Horacio Ramirez, a 25-year-old lefty who had a 2.39 ERA in nine starts last year before suffering a season-ending left shoulder injury in May.

The A's, on the other hand, were one of those teams seeking financial flexibility and thus felt compelled to part with two thirds of their Big Three (only lefty Barry Zito remains), a trio that had combined to win 234 games since 2000. With Hudson due to make $6.5 million this season, his last before free agency, and Mulder set to earn $6 million, the A's were facing a payroll in excess of $70 million (up from $59.4 million in 2004)—"above our means," said Oakland G.M. Billy Beane.

Other teams had no problem paying to beef up their rotations. The Red Sox gave former Cubs righthander Matt Clement, who has a 69–75 career record and erratic command, a three-year, $25 million deal.

But no clubs made bolder moves than the Braves and the Yankees did. In addition to Johnson, New York was to get another lefty, Kaz Ishii (13–8 last year), from the Dodgers in the three-team trade, to go with free-agent signees Carl Pavano and Wright *(chart, below)*.

As Schuerholz summed it up, "We're pleased with what we've been able to do—and I'm sure other teams are pleased with what they've done with their staffs."□

Starting Over

A look at the projected 2005 rotations for five of last season's playoff contenders (new starters in red)

A's	BRAVES	CARDINALS	RED SOX	YANKEES
Barry Zito	Tim Hudson	Mark Mulder	Curt Schilling	Randy Johnson
Rich Harden	John Smoltz	Matt Morris	David Wells	Mike Mussina
Joe Blanton	Mike Hampton	Chris Carpenter	Matt Clement	Carl Pavano
Danny Haren	John Thomson	Jason Marquis	Bronson Arroyo	Jaret Wright
Dan Meyer	Horacio Ramirez	Jeff Suppan	Tim Wakefield	Kaz Ishii
Zito, 26, has nearly as many major league wins (72) as the other four starters have total appearances (79).	*Just like the good old days with Glavine and Maddux, starting pitching is the strength of Bobby Cox's team.*	*Each member of the Cardinals' quintet won at least 15 games and threw at least 180 innings last season.*	*Note to Wells: The last Red Sox lefthander to make 25 starts in a season was Frank Viola in 1993.*	*The pending Johnson-Ishii deal would give the Yanks four new starters for the second straight year.*

FROM LEFT: BRAD MANGIN; JOHN BIEVER; JOHN CORDES/ICON SMI

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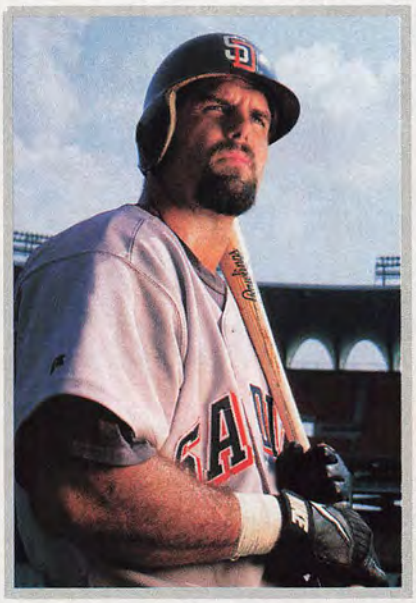
Sports Illustrated

Farewell

Even as new stars were born in 2004—welcome Michael Phelps, Ben Roethlisberger, Maria Sharapova, Smarty Jones—others went dark. Each of the athletes, coaches and innovators who died left a mark: some great, some small, all indelible



KEN CAMINITI

41

The 1996 National League MVP and the first major leaguer to admit he'd used steroids died of a drug overdose. Respected for playing through pain, he was so dehydrated before a '96 game that he took two liters of IV fluids, then went out and hit two homers.

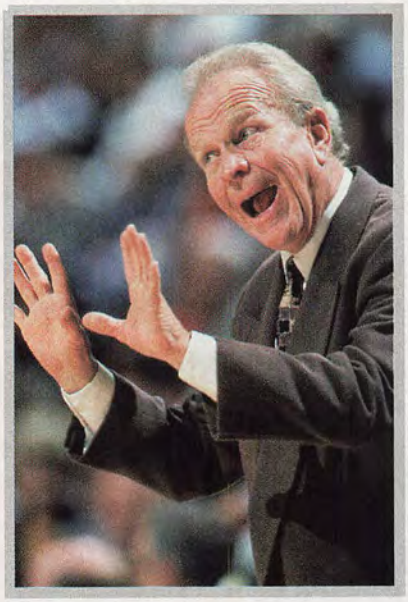
ROBERT SEALE/TSN/ICON SMI

MARGE SCHOTT

75

An anomaly in baseball's old-boys' network, the Reds owner from '84 to '99 was a tireless philanthropist but given to acts of social and racial insensitivity that led to her being suspended. Ex-commissioner Fay Vincent: "I always thought of her as a tragic figure."

BILL FRAKES



COTTON FITZSIMMONS

72

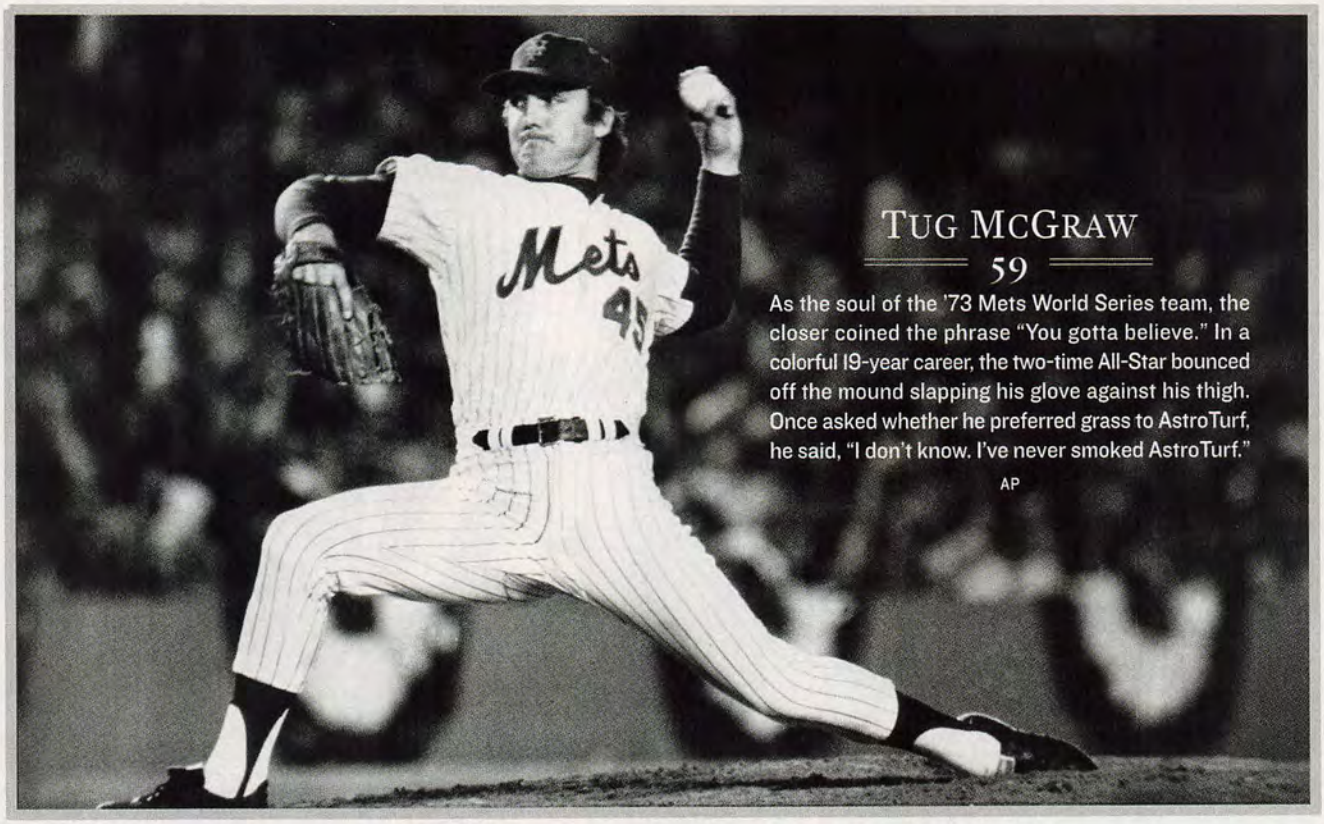
The two-time NBA Coach of the Year was a great communicator with a soft country drawl. He won 832 games (10th alltime), including 341 with the Suns, whose CEO Jerry Colangelo said, "He embodied all things that are great about life."

JOHN BIEVER

Elroy Hirsch
80

The Wisconsin star went by Crazy Legs after a writer said his running style made him look "like a demented duck." An ironworker's son, he played 11 pro seasons, winning an NFL title with the '51 Rams, and starred in three movies.

VIC STEIN



TUG MCGRAW
59

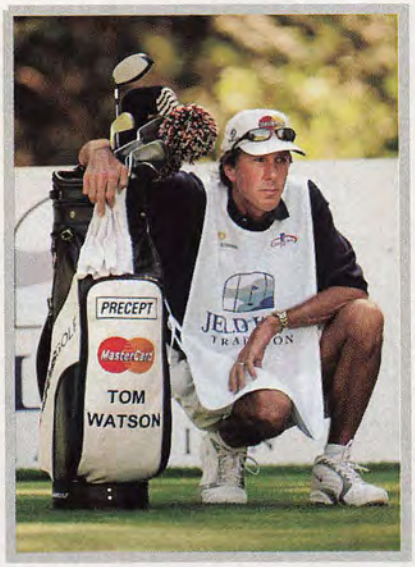
As the soul of the '73 Mets World Series team, the closer coined the phrase "You gotta believe." In a colorful 19-year career, the two-time All-Star bounced off the mound slapping his glove against his thigh. Once asked whether he preferred grass to AstroTurf, he said, "I don't know. I've never smoked AstroTurf."

AP

PETE CUTINO
71

Famously demanding, he led Cal's water polo team to eight national titles between '73 and '88. Four times he was NCAA Coach of the Year and the Peter J. Cutino award—water polo's Heisman—was established in '99.

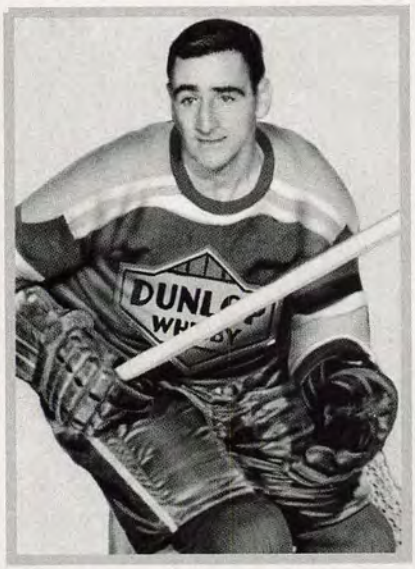
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



BRUCE EDWARDS
49

He was on Tom Watson's bag for 30 years and worked the 2003 U.S. Open despite advanced ALS. Watson, inspired, shot an opening-round 65. "Even if I die within the year," the caddie said, "I've had a great life."

JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES



SID SMITH
78

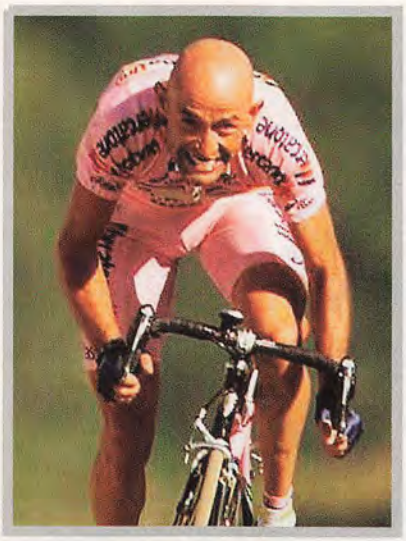
A crafty scorer (six 20-goal years), the Toronto captain won three Stanley Cups in the '40s and '50s and twice took the Lady Byng Trophy as the NHL's most gentlemanly player. He played in more than 400 straight games.

TORONTO STAR/AP

JIMMY MCLARNIN
96

He wielded a powerful right hand, had a steel jaw and was known as Baby Face. Historian Burt Sugar named the two-time world champ (he retired in 1936) the second-greatest welterweight of all time.

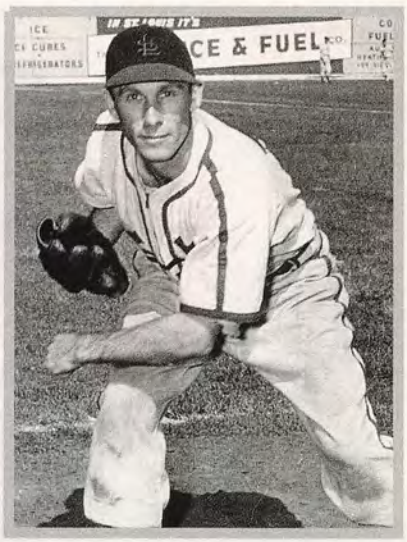
CORBIS



MARCO PANTANI
34

Dubbed *Il Pirata* for his bandanna and gold earring, the scrawny (5′ 8″, 126 pounds) Italian cyclist won the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia in 1998, before spiraling into the drug addiction that apparently cost his life.

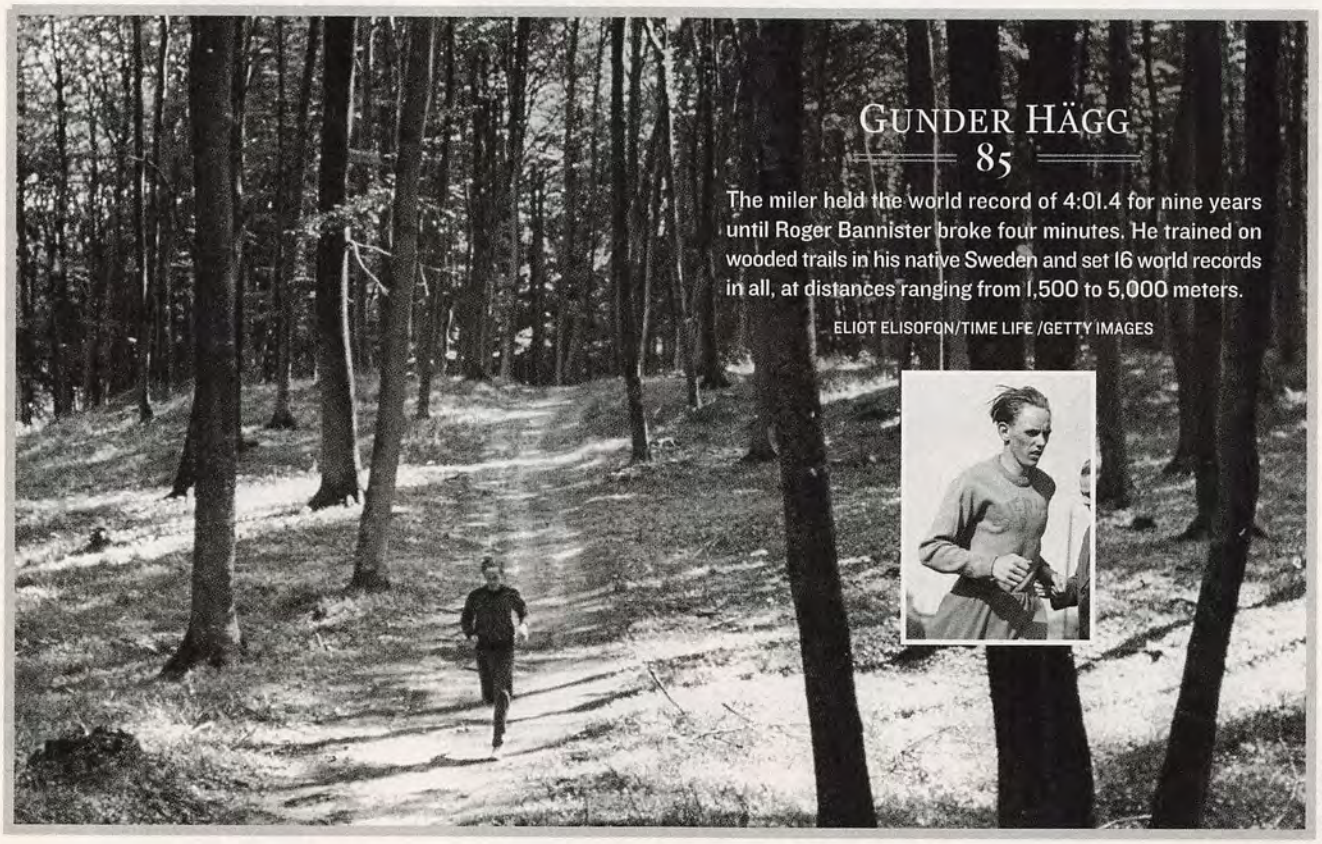
POWELL/GETTY IMAGES



HARRY BRECHEEN
89

A slick fielder known as the Cat, the lefty won 133 games in a 12-year career and went 20–7 in '48, but it was the three games he won in the Cardinals '46 Series victory over the Red Sox that secured his place in baseball lore.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

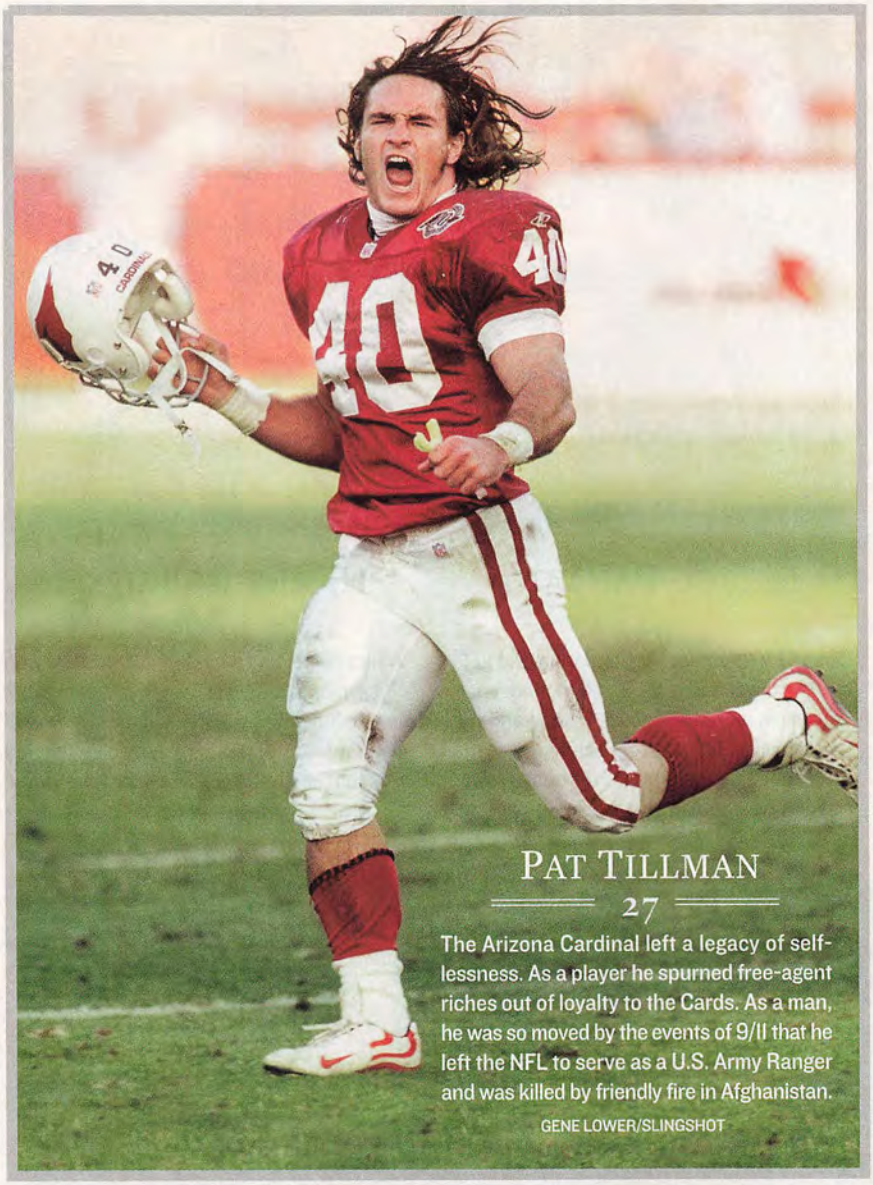


GUNDER HÄGG
85

The miler held the world record of 4:01.4 for nine years until Roger Bannister broke four minutes. He trained on wooded trails in his native Sweden and set 16 world records in all, at distances ranging from 1,500 to 5,000 meters.

ELIOT ELISOFON/TIME LIFE /GETTY IMAGES

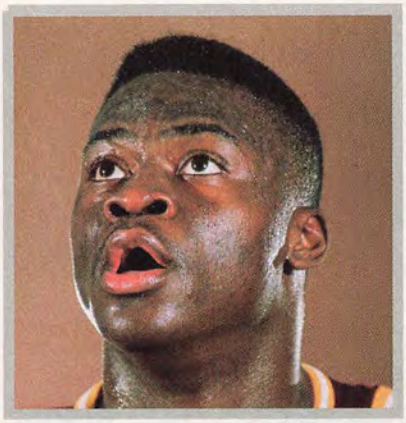
CORBIS (INSET)



PAT TILLMAN
27

The Arizona Cardinal left a legacy of selflessness. As a player he spurned free-agent riches out of loyalty to the Cards. As a man, he was so moved by the events of 9/11 that he left the NFL to serve as a U.S. Army Ranger and was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan.

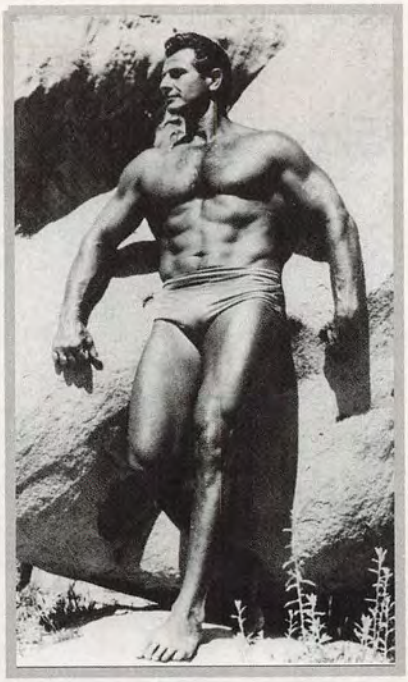
GENE LOWER/SLINGSHOT



YINKA DARE
31

He had Hakeem's size, Dikembe's spirit and, at 7 feet, a mountain of upside. Yet after the Nets drafted him No. 14 in '94 , the Nigerian center averaged 2.1 points in four NBA years. He died in New Jersey of a heart attack.

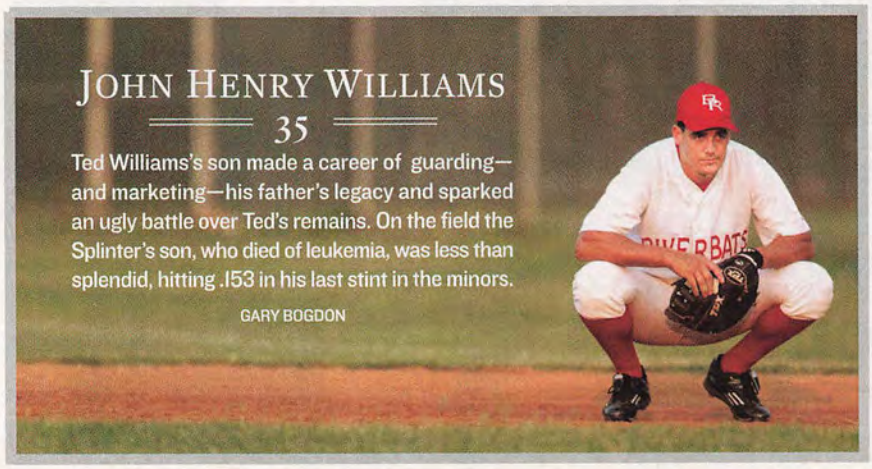
LOU CAPOZZOLA



JOE GOLD
82

Gold's Gym, which the World War II veteran founded in California in '65 after inventing numerous workout machines, was the birthplace of a bodybuilding movement—and where Ahnold began his ascent.

COURTESY OF WORLD GYM



JOHN HENRY WILLIAMS
35

Ted Williams's son made a career of guarding—and marketing—his father's legacy and sparked an ugly battle over Ted's remains. On the field the Splinter's son, who died of leukemia, was less than splendid, hitting .153 in his last stint in the minors.

GARY BOGDON

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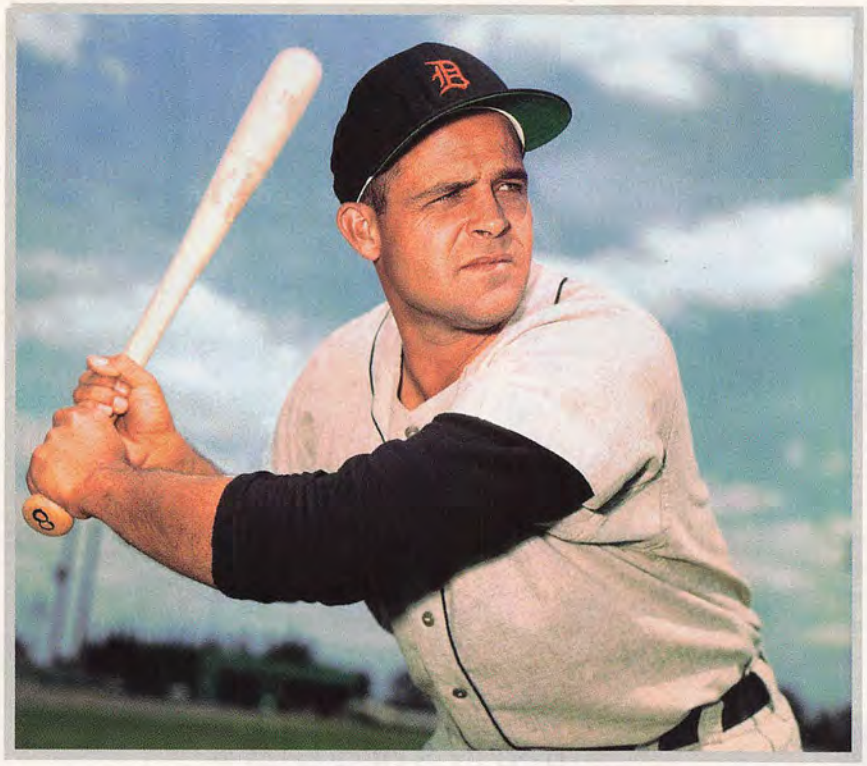


RAY BOONE
81

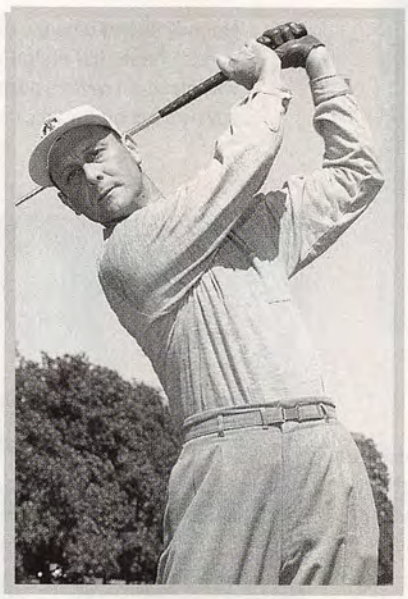
The infielder played 13 years in the bigs, and when he retired in 1960, his impact had just begun: He was the patriarch of baseball's three-generation All-Star family. "Anybody that's not proud of this," he said watching grandsons Bret and Aaron in the '03 All-Star Game, "there's something wrong with them."

CORBIS

BRIAN MAXWELL
51

He was once Canada's greatest marathoner and ranked No. 3 in the world, but his legacy was made in the kitchen of his California home. There, in 1986, he and his wife, Jennifer, created the PowerBar.

A. GLASSBURG/UPC/AP



FRED HAAS
88

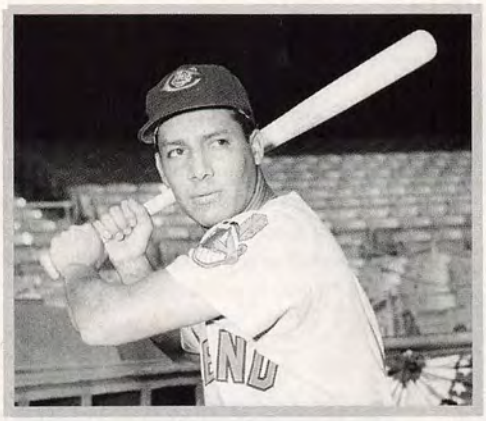
Believed to be the first to receive a golf scholarship—to LSU, where he won the NCAA individual title in '37—he took five PGA Tour events including the '45 Memphis Open to end Byron Nelson's win streak at 11.

RONNIE WATTS COLLECTION/HISTORIC GOLF PHOTOS

DOC COUNSILMAN
83

At 58, when he became the oldest man to swim the English Channel, he'd won six NCAA swimming titles as Indiana's coach. He mentored 48 Olympians; Mark Spitz called him "the most instrumental person in my career."

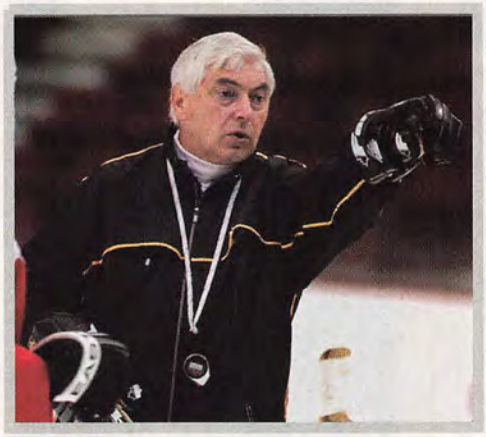
BETTMANN/CORBIS



BOBBY AVILA
80

As a kid in Mexico he dreamed of becoming a soccer star or a bullfighter. Instead he became a second baseman, helping the Indians take the Series in '54, when he was the first Latin big leaguer to win a batting title.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



IVAN HLINKA
54

His death was a tragedy in the Czech Republic, which he led to hockey championships as a center in the '70s and to Olympic gold as a coach in '98. He played (Canucks) and coached (Penguins) in the NHL too.

GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

FANNY BLANKERS-KOEN
85

The Dutchwoman had two children and was pregnant when she won four golds at the '48 Olympics, a feat still unmatched in women's track and one that earned her the sobriquet of the Flying Housewife.

CORBIS

JUSTIN STRZELCZYK
36

Nobody knows why the ex–Steelers lineman led police on a high-speed chase that ended in his fatal collision. From '90 to '98 he was steady in several positions on the O-line, but family and friends say he'd become manic depressive since injuries ended his career.

RICHARD MACKSON

"Never date a card player.
They lie too well."

DARRELL RUSSELL
35

The National Hot Rod Association's 2001 Rookie of the Year and well-liked as one of the circuit's most easygoing drivers, he was traveling at more than 300 mph when his car broke up at a race in Madison, Ill., two weeks after the sixth top-fuel win of his career.

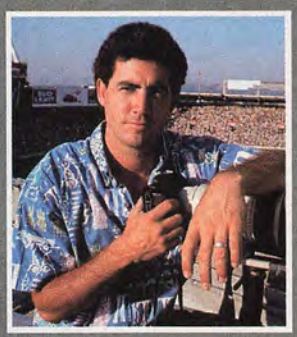
AUTO IMAGERY INC./AP

ROOSEVELT BROWN
71

A graceful, athletic lineman in an age of mauling bruisers, he may have been the best tackle ever. The Giants' 27th-round pick in 1953, the 6′3″ 255-pounder led the sweep for backs such as Frank Gifford, who said, "I wouldn't be in the Hall of Fame if it weren't for him."

TIMEPIX

FROM SI'S FAMILY



V.J. LOVERO
44

"Baseball never looked sweeter than it did through the lens of V.J. Lovero," wrote senior writer Tom Verducci. The Californian's boyhood dream was to be an SI photographer, and few have done it better: His pictures graced 39 covers.

JEFF CARLICK

SIDNEY JAMES
97

SI's first managing editor (1954–60) recruited Hemingway and Faulkner to contribute pieces to the magazine. Known for his enthusiasm, he led SI's first Olympic coverage and presided over the birth of the cover jinx in '57.

RALPH CRANE/TIME LIFE/GETTY IMAGES

RALPH WILEY
52

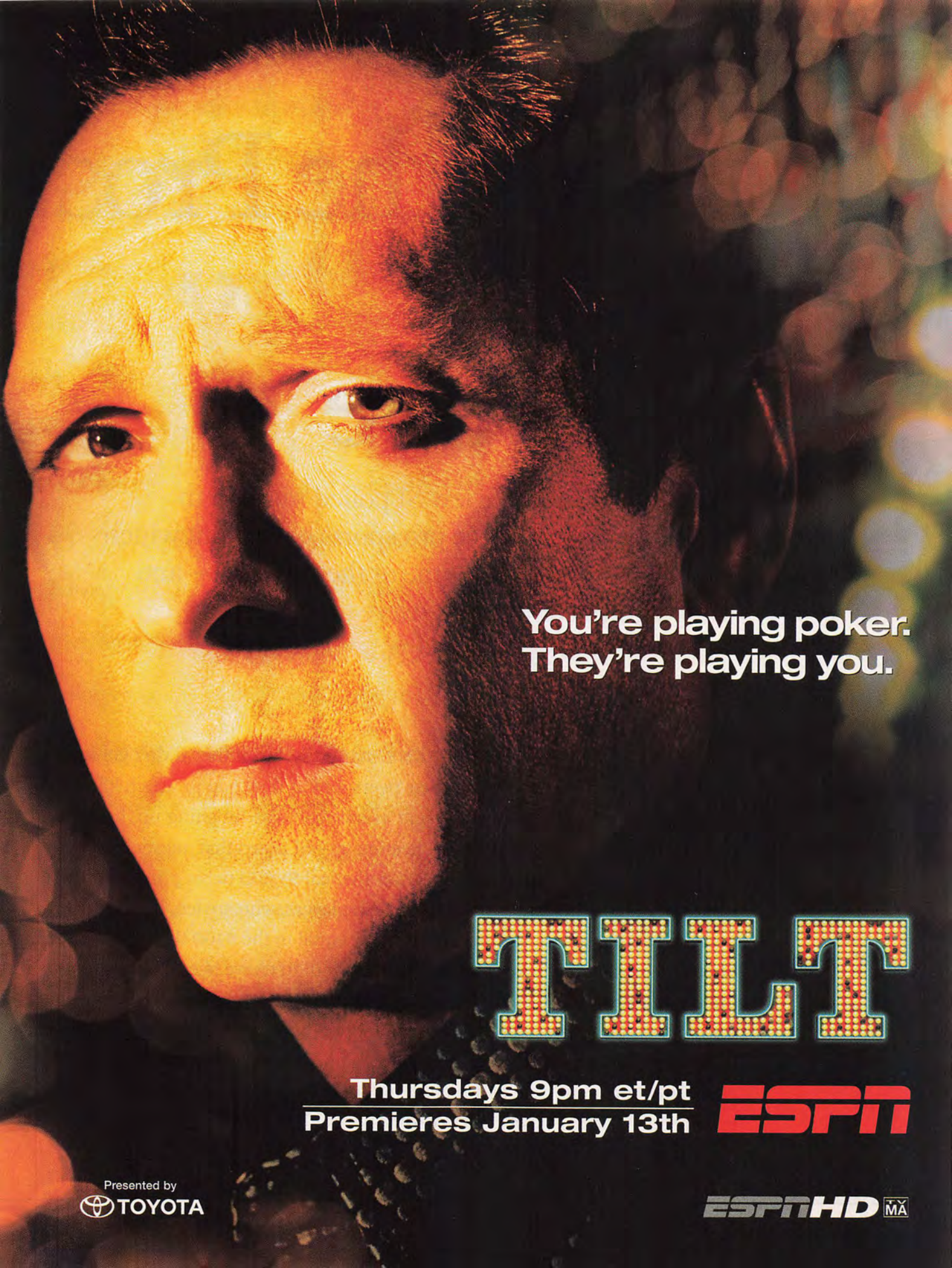
Outspoken and passionate, Wiley wrote 12 cover stories as an SI writer from 1982 to '91, and he memorably chronicled the life of Sugar Ray Robinson. Among his books were collaborations with Spike Lee and Martin Luther King Jr.'s son.

SUSAN STEINKAMP

F. DARRIN PERRY
39

The North Carolina native and Parsons alum came to SI as a designer in '88 and rose to art director before leaving in '97. Talented and innovative, he became the first design director at *ESPN the Magazine* and later redesigned *Wired*.

RONALD C. MODRA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The Pros the Pros Would Pay To See

In the ultimate peer review SI polled more than 600 players from the Big Three pro sports to find out which athletes they admire most. Some of their choices—and their choice comments—were unexpected

BY JACK McCALLUM

WISHFUL THINKING The 17 votes for Jordan are testimony to how much he is missed.

PRO ATHLETES ARE SPORTS FANS, naturally, but if they didn't get into most events free, whom among their peers would they pay to watch? From mid-October to early November—just as baseball was finishing up, basketball was revving up and football was heating up—SI posed that question to 625 pros from those three sports, using a hypothetical $1,000 ticket price for NBA and major league players and $500 for NFL players, who are less highly compensated. (After all, those sums are roughly equal to the $100 the typical fan often has to pay for a ticket.) ¶ The question wouldn't have been as intriguing during the 1990s. The overwhelming answer surely would've been Michael Jordan because he was still the choice of more than a dozen of our polled athletes, even though we begged them to name an active player. But it seemed especially pertinent now as we contemplate a sports firmament that is not exactly bereft of star power but is certainly not glowing with it. ¶ At any rate, the athlete who got the most votes was . . . well, hold on a bit. Not just yet.

Donovan McNabb

Philadelphia Eagles, quarterback

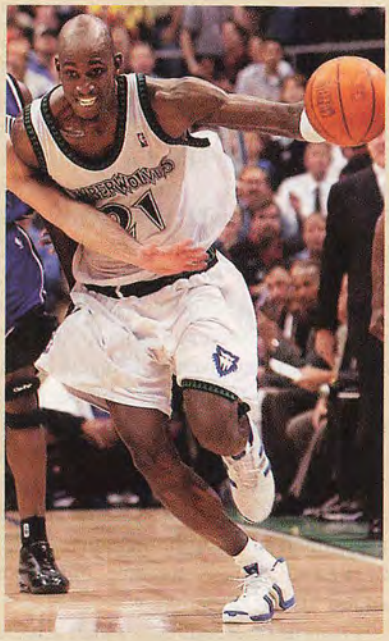
Would pay to see
MICHAEL VICK

"He's got so much ability; he can throw, he can run. I can run, but I don't do it as fast as he does. Everybody talks about stats—passing yards, rushing yards—and how he's an exciting player, but the thing about Mike is, he's a winner. Forget the numbers and just look at his record [23-11-1 career]. He doesn't get enough credit for the fact that he's a winner."

Sam Cassell

Minnesota Timberwolves, guard

Would pay to see
KEVIN GARNETT



"He'll do it all—scoring, rebounds, assists. Guards the top guy, too, no matter if you're 6-feet-tall or 7-feet-tall. He can defend anyone. Put four CBA players on Kevin's team and he may not win 50, but he's going to win some games. Making someone else better, that's the sign of a great player."

Chris Duhon

Chicago Bulls, guard

Would pay to see
RAY LEWIS

"I just love his intensity. When they have players wired on *Monday Night Football*, it energizes me just to hear how he talks to his teammates and how he trash-talks to the other team. He's so fired up, so into the game. That's what kind of player I want to be. I want to be energetic and have fans be able to tell that I'm having fun playing the game."

HILLERY SMITH GARRISON/AP (JORDAN); ALLEN KEE/WIREIMAGE.COM (MCNABB); KEVIN KRECK/COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/KRT/ABACA (VICK); CLAY PATRICK MCBRIDE (CASSELL); ANN HEISENFELT/AP (GARNETT); JOE ROBBINS/SPURLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY (DUHON); SIMON BRUTY (LEWIS)

Paul Pierce

Boston Celtics, forward

Would pay to see

BARRY BONDS

"I think he's a walking legend. Every time he goes up to bat, you see all the people taking pictures of him. You have a chance to watch a guy make history every time he goes up there. That's something special, to see it in your own era."

We would have polled players in the NHL too, had that league been in session. Whether the lockout kept hockey stars from getting their props is hard to say, but Calgary Flames rightwinger Jerome Iginla, Pittsburgh Penguins center Mario Lemieux and New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur were the only NHLers selected—with a total of five votes. Which pretty much sums up hockey's major problem, doesn't it?

That some athletes have actually paid to see an event or a particular athlete was surprising. "Heck, I paid $1,000 this spring to see Roy Jones fight Antonio Tarver in Las Vegas," said Boston Celtics backup center Michael Stewart. "We weren't on the floor or anything, but it was great to be there." And Houston Texans safety Eric Brown laid it down for floor seats at Game 1 of the San Antonio Spurs–Los Angeles Lakers playoff series last May. Less surprising was that many wouldn't consider reaching into their wallet. "I wouldn't pay one thousand dollars to see nobody," said Denver's Carmelo Anthony, who nevertheless expects Nuggets fans to pay upwards of a hundred bucks to see him. Said Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants, "I'd put that money in the stock market and go to the event on somebody else's ticket." That kind of attitude pretty much sums up Bonds's personality, but the sad thing is that Anthony seems headed in that direction.

Almost as interesting as which athletes were selected was how the voting patterns broke down by sport *(page 91)*. NBA players, for example, named more boxers and tennis players than baseball players; the basketball players liked NFL guys the most, but not nearly as much as football players liked NBA stars. And major leaguers, who didn't like boxers at all, liked no one as much as they liked themselves.

Some of the choices were shockers. Densely tattooed tough guy Kenyon Martin, a power forward for the Nuggets, chose tennis's Andy Roddick because "I just like his intensity." New York Giants wide receiver Amani Toomer made it clear that he wouldn't pick "any football players or basketball players," but would pay to watch seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher of Germany. Schu was chosen by six other players as well, but the only NASCAR drivers mentioned were Dale Earnhardt Jr. (twice) and Tony Stewart (once).

THE PROS' appreciation for other pros goes way beyond the mainstream. The Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal would spend his jackquille on Ultimate Fighting champion Randy Couture ("the Shaq of Ultimate Fighting," O'Neal calls him), while Los Angeles Clippers forward Zeljko Rebraca went for another Ultimate Fighting stalwart, Royce Gracie. San Diego Padres

Steve Nash

Phoenix Suns, guard

Would pay to see

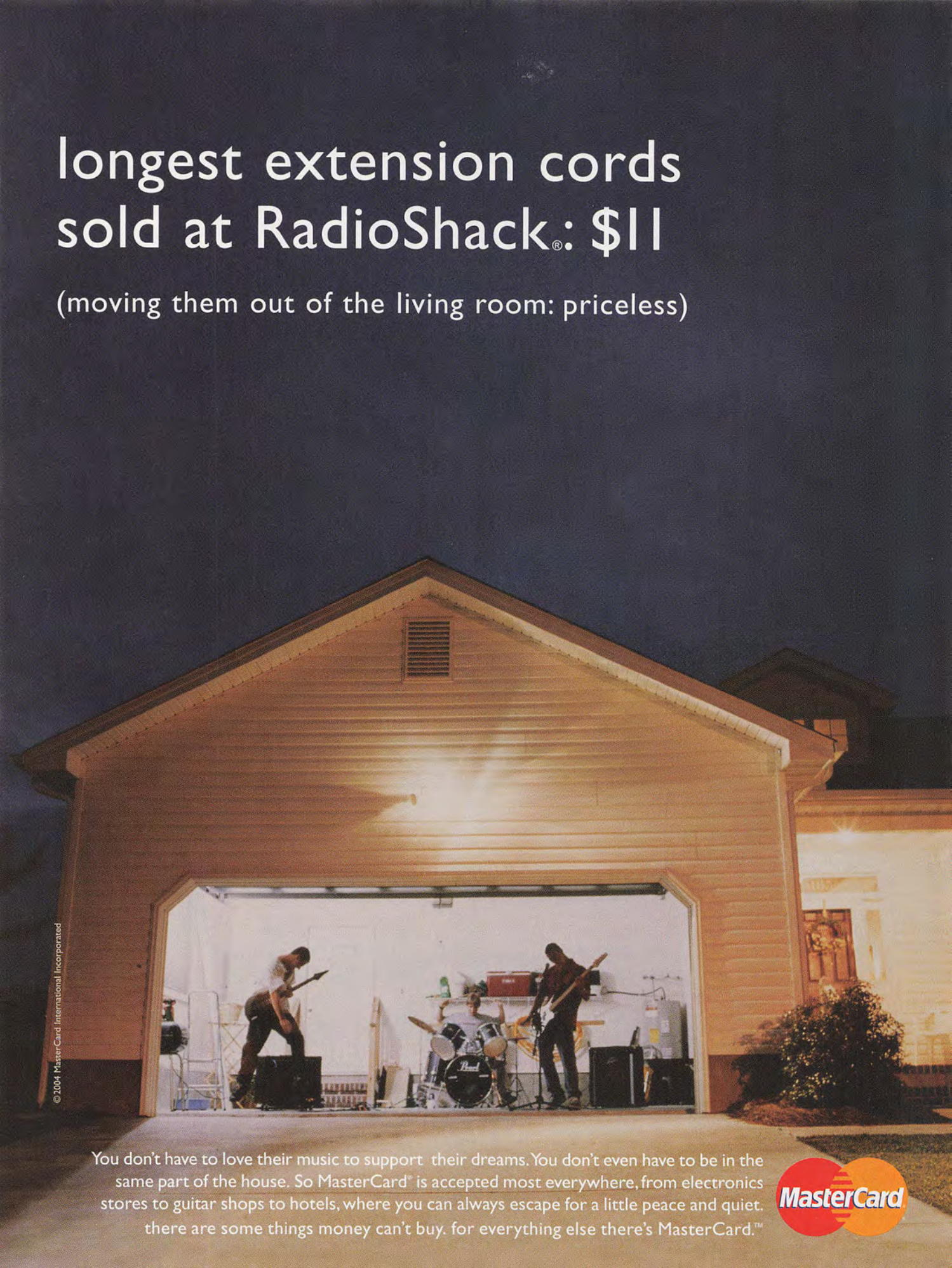
ZINEDINE ZIDANE

"He has such mastery of the ball. To me he's like a sensei. He has a surreal relationship with the ball. It's incredible."

ICON SMI (PIERCE); JACK DEMPSEY/AP (BONDS); JOHN W. MCDONOUGH (NASH); GLEB GARANICH/REUTERS (ZIDANE)

longest extension cords sold at RadioShack®: $11

(moving them out of the living room: priceless)



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SAMSUNG

Ballot Breakdown

An analysis reveals that baseball players hold their stars in high esteem, football players don't think much of theirs, and Shaq would have won if more NFL players had voted.

HOW THE NFL VOTED

Basketball players ...41%
Golfers 12%
Boxers.....11%
Football players.....9%
Baseball players.....7%

TOP VOTE-GETTERS

Shaquille O'Neal.....34
Tiger Woods 25
Barry Bonds 12
LeBron James.....12
Michael Jordan.....11
Serena Williams.....11

HOW THE NBA VOTED

Football players.....23%
Boxers.....16%
Basketball players ...15%
Tennis players 12%
Baseball players.....11%

TOP VOTE-GETTERS

Michael Vick 18
Tiger Woods 16
Serena Williams.....15
Barry Bonds 13
Kevin Garnett 12
Mike Tyson 9

HOW MLB VOTED

Baseball players.....23%
Football players.....21%
Golfers 17%
Basketball players ...15%
Boxers.....5%

TOP VOTE-GETTERS

Barry Bonds 35
Tiger Woods 34
Shaquille O'Neal 18
Brett Favre.....16
Michael Vick.....14
LeBron James.....6

ICON SMI (MARTIN); RON C. ANGLE (RODDICK)

outfielder Ryan Klesko and Oakland A's pitcher Barry Zito chose surfers, though, dude, it sounded as if they wanted a road trip out of it. "I'd spend the money to go to Hawaii and see Rob Machado or Taylor Knox surf the Pipeline," said Klesko, while Zito would "pay my way to Tahiti to see Garrett McNamara, Laird Hamilton and Andy Irons surf Teahupo'o." Staying at the beach, Klesko's teammate, infielder Ramon Vazquez, selected Mike Lambert ("He's the young beach volleyball player who has teamed with Karch Kiraly and given Karch a second career; he's an incredible athlete"), while Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Hugh Douglas and San Diego Chargers wide receiver Tim Dwight went, less surprisingly, for the statuesque sand goddess Gabrielle Reese. Douglas gave his reasons as "her body, her body, her body, her body, her body." We get it, we get it, we get it, we get it, we get it.

Rangers third baseman Hank Blalock moved the voting from sand to dirt, selecting motocross freestylist Travis Pastrana; Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Dave Krynzel moved it from dirt to blacktop with drag racer John Force; and Baltimore Orioles reliever Todd Williams moved it indoors, tapping poker ace Doyle Brunson with this excellent logic: "If I'm going to spend $1,000, I may as well try to win some of it back."

Narcissism is never too far from the modern athlete's mind. Washington Redskins linebacker LaVar Arrington picked San Francisco 49ers linebacker Julian Peterson partly because "he reminds me of myself in a lot of ways." Chicago Bulls rookie center Jared Reiner went with . . . Jared Reiner. "I'd just set up a bunch of mirrors," said Reiner, who at week's end had played in three games and scored a total of eight points. "I'm one of the best-looking seven-footers in the league." At least as good-looking as Reiner was the choice of Chicago Bears defensive end Michael Haynes, who didn't go for a single athlete but, rather, the group of them who compete each year in the Westminster Dog Show. Haynes, who has a degree in animal science from Penn State, said he "really likes" boxers.

So do a lot of pro basketball and football players, a combined 17 of whom picked Mike Tyson, who hasn't won a fight of any significance since 1991. "Anything can happen when he fights," said Baltimore Ravens linebacker Cornell Brown. "Someone could get maimed, someone could get knocked out."

The increasing presence of foreign players in U.S. leagues was evident in the number of soccer players they chose. Real Madrid's Ronaldo was the choice of seven pros. Freddy Adu, David Beckham, Thierry Henry and Zinedine Zidane also got votes. None was praised as lavishly as Zidane, the French national team star, of whom Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash (a former soccer standout at Santa Clara) said, "To me he's like a sensei. He has a surreal relationship with the ball."

LESS SURREAL was the reasoning behind the strong showing of Serena Williams, with whom we begin our countdown of the top five vote-getters. Williams,

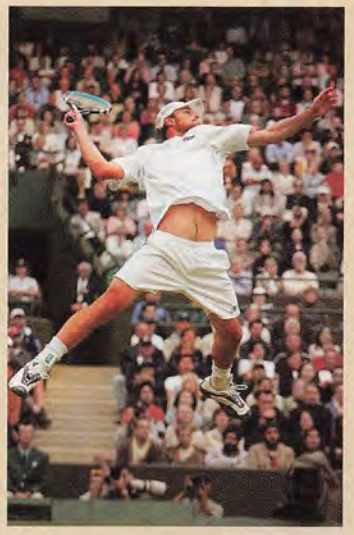
Kenyon Martin

Denver Nuggets, forward

Would pay to see

ANDY RODDICK

"I just like his intensity, the way he plays."



the younger of the two crushers from Compton, got 27 votes, 10 more than three-time NFL MVP Brett Favre and 12 more than six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. In many cases it even had something to do with tennis. "I'm astounded by how she moves around the court," said New York Mets centerfielder Mike Cameron. Wondered Milwaukee Bucks guard Erick Strickland, "I'd like to pick her brain to see what else is in her head besides tennis. . . . She's been training since she was a kid."

Alas, there's another component to Serena's popularity, as Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis points out: "You can't beat that Catwoman suit she wears."

Charlotte Bobcats forward Gerald Wallace: "I'll pick Serena Williams, but only if she has on that tight little outfit she usually wears."

New Orleans Saints cornerback Mike McKenzie: "I wouldn't mind paying to see Serena . . . if she has the leopard suit on."

Eagles defensive tackle Hollis Thomas: "It would be cool to see Serena in the finals of Wimbledon, hopefully wearing the catsuit outfit as well."

Attire was not part of the appeal of Michael Vick, the fourth-place finisher. He got 39 votes strictly on ability. "[When Atlanta is playing] the only time you can go to the bathroom or to the kitchen is during timeouts or when he's on the sideline," said Indiana Pacers point guard Anthony Johnson. Stated Kansas City Royals pitcher Nate Field, "He's the best athlete in sports right now."

The Vick endorsement that meant the most came from Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb. "He can throw, he can run. I can run, but I don't do it as fast as he does," said McNabb. "Everybody talks about stats—passing yards, rushing yards—and how he's an exciting player, but the thing about Mike is, he's a winner." (Well, Donovan, at week's end Vick was 23-11-1 as an NFL starter, and you were 56-22-0.) McNabb, for the record, got only six votes, including one from Bobcats frontcourtman Melvin Ely, who would "just about sell my Hummer to see him play." (Vick did not vote.)

Much of the support for the third-place finisher, Shaq, came from the NFL, whose players cast 34 of the 58 votes O'Neal garnered. Many of them look at O'Neal and see more pigskin in him than roundball—"I like the way Shaq beats people around and does what he wants," said Miami Dolphins safety Yeremiah Bell—but what was surprising was the degree to which Shaq's 7' 1", 335-pound physique turned other pros into slack-jawed fans. "He's just an animal," said Arizona Diamondbacks infielder Shea Hillenbrand. "I went to a Suns game and sat courtside for the first time last year. . . . Getting to see that sport that close, seeing someone that big play, would be really, really fun." Adds Falcons running back T.J. Duckett, "I'd love to see a guy that big face-to-face and be, like, 'Wow, you are one big human.' "

Hollis Thomas

Philadelphia Eagles, defensive tackle

Would pay to see

SERENA WILLIAMS

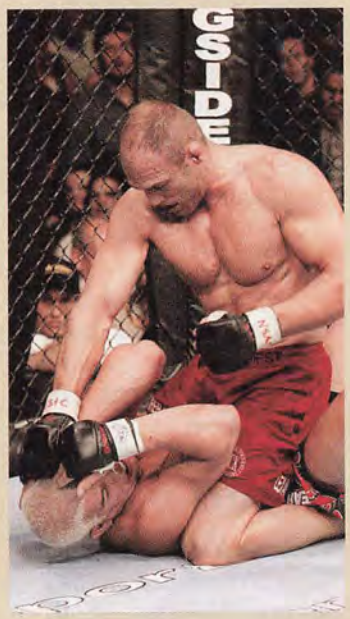
"She completely dominates her sport. She's a great athlete. It would be cool to see Serena in the finals of Wimbledon, hopefully wearing the catsuit as well."

Shaquille O'Neal

Miami Heat, center

Would pay to see

RANDY COUTURE



"Believe it or not, Randy Couture, the Ultimate Fighting champion, because he's old and when all the young guys come down, he still kicks their asses. I've been to his last four fights. He's the Shaq of Ultimate Fighting."

RICHARD BRIGHTLY/ICON SMI (THOMAS); MARY SCHILPP (WILLIAMS); BOB ROSATO (O'NEAL); JOSHUA HEDGES/UFC (COUTURE)

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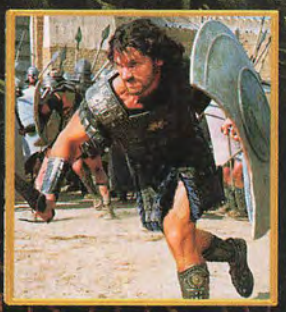

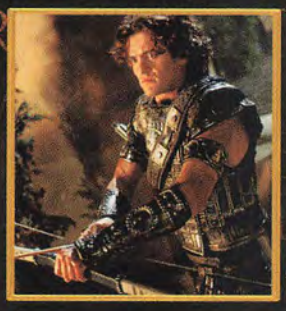

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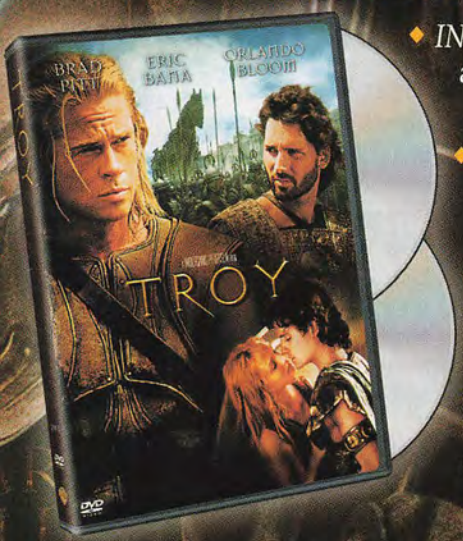

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Shaq wasn't that popular among his hoop homeys, 12 of whom would've shelled out a grand to see the Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett ("the best all-around player in the NBA," according to Bucks guard T.J. Ford) compared with only six for Shaq. But, then, the NBA was decidedly tough on its own. The Cleveland Cavaliers' rising immortal, LeBron James, got only one of his 19 votes from within the league (former teammate Eric Williams's), while Kobe Bryant got a mere four. And two of those were from teammates Caron Butler and Jumaine Jones, both of whom are keenly aware, apparently, of who runs the Lakers.

With 60 votes Bonds edged out Shaq for second place. The poll was taken before the recent revelations abouts Bonds's using steroids, but the guess is that it wouldn't have made a difference. The interesting thing about Bonds was the support he received from fellow ballplayers; his rivals (and teammates) might not like him, but they respect him as a player and, like the fans, would find him even more intriguing if he got more strikes to hit. "I would vote for Barry Bonds," said Chicago White Sox first baseman Paul Konerko, "but they'd probably walk him so it would be a waste of a grand." No catsuit, no scrambling around in the pocket, no seven-foot physicality. Just bat meets ball, brother. "I get excited every time I'm on the field with him," said Washington Nationals (at least for the time being) outfielder Endy Chavez. Cleveland Indians first baseman Ben Broussard would even pay to watch Bonds take batting practice, and White Sox lefthander Scott Schoeneweis gave Bonds the ultimate props: "He's Jordanesque."

THAT SUPERLATIVE also describes the leading vote-getter, who, as you've probably figured out by now, was Tiger Woods, with 75 votes, 12% of those cast. In uncharacteristic style, Woods won by finishing second three times: behind Vick in the basketball players' vote, behind Shaq in the football players' tally and behind Bonds in the baseball vote. To shell out the money, some athletes specified that they wanted to watch him in a major. Others, such as Mavericks swingman Michael Finley, would pay up only if they could "walk inside the ropes."

But the respect for Woods—"not a common athlete" was how Eagles linebacker Ike Reese described him—was overwhelming. Jocks who golf (such as Konerko, Eagles linebacker Nate Wayne and Texans placekicker Kris Brown) picked Tiger. Athletes who are trying to get into golf (such as New York Knicks forward Tim Thomas) picked Tiger. And athletes who don't like golf (such as Minnesota Vikings defensive tackle Steve Martin and Royals pitcher Shawn Camp) picked Tiger.

The admiration for Woods, in fact, cut so deep that Philadelphia Phillies catcher Mike Lieberthal said he would pay *more* than $1,000 to play a round with him, and Anaheim Angels pitcher Paul Byrd and Brewers catcher Chad Moeller said they would pay $1,000 to carry his bag in a tournament.

Still, those who'd like to caddie for Tiger can't match the number who want to get catty with Serena. Especially if she's wearing the catsuit. □

Amani Toomer

New York Giants, wide receiver

Would pay to see
MICHAEL SCHUMACHER

"I got into Formula One racing, and I really enjoy watching it. I Tivo it all the time. I'd pay to see Schumacher. In fact I did. I went to the Montreal Grand Prix."

The Winner Is...

Tiger Woods may have lost his No. 1 spot in the World Ranking in 2004, but that has not diminished him in the eyes of his peers. He was the athlete the pros would pay to see on 12% of the 625 ballots cast, which is not exactly Jordanesque—especially when Jordan got about a fifth as many votes, even in retirement—but it's an impressive win nonetheless. The top 10 vote-getters:

1.	Tiger Woods	75
2.	Barry Bonds	60
3.	Shaquille O'Neal	58
4.	Michael Vick	39
5.	Serena Williams	27
6.	Mike Tyson	20
7.	LeBron James	19
8.	Brett Favre	17
	Michael Jordan	17
10.	Kevin Garnett	15
	Lance Armstrong	15

NFL PHOTOS (TOOMER); ENIKO SUGITA/REUTERS (SCHUMACHER); ROBERT BECK (WOODS)

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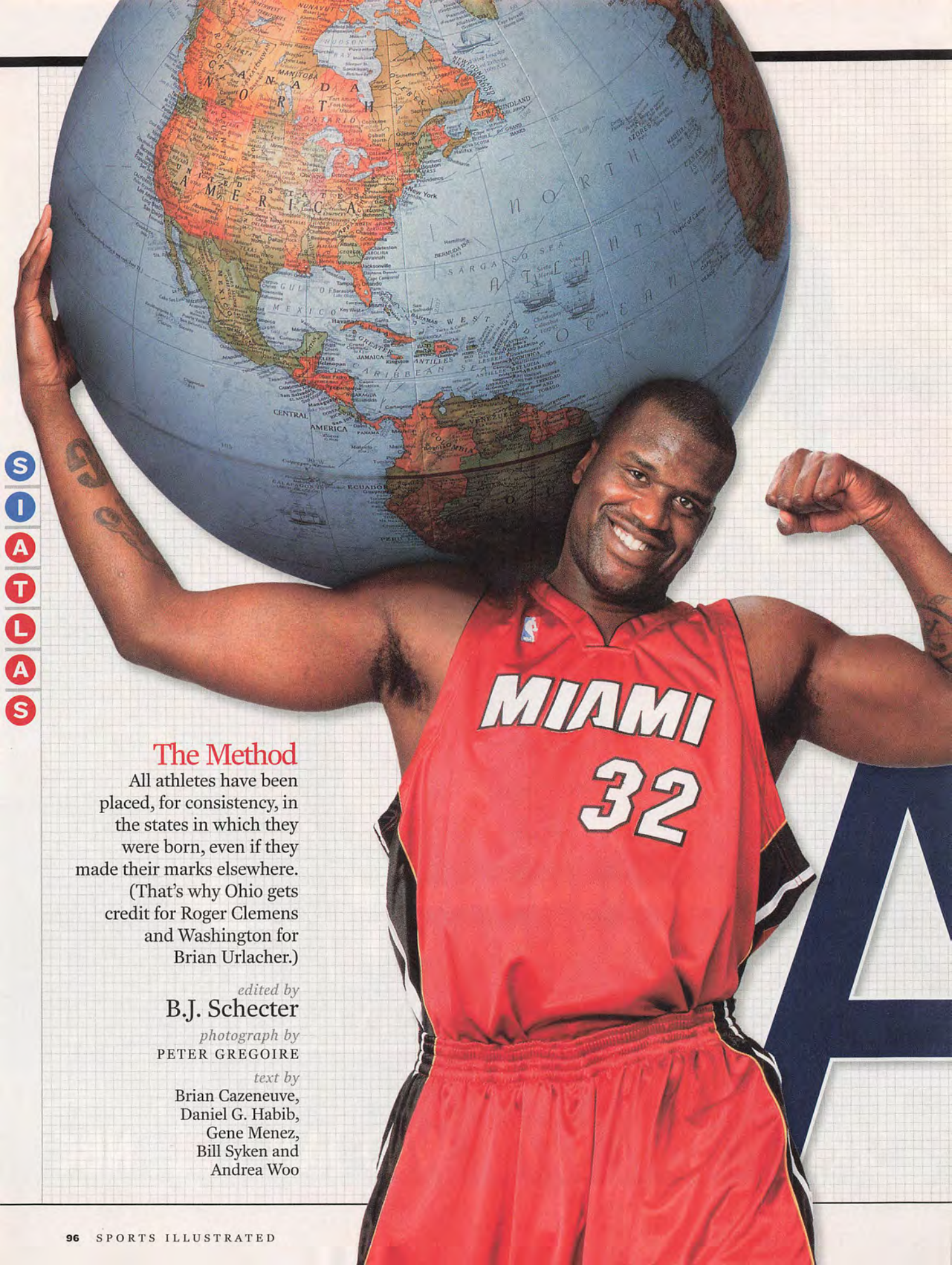

The Method

All athletes have been placed, for consistency, in the states in which they were born, even if they made their marks elsewhere. (That's why Ohio gets credit for Roger Clemens and Washington for Brian Urlacher.)

edited by
B.J. Schecter

photograph by
PETER GREGOIRE

text by
Brian Cazeneuve, Daniel G. Habib, Gene Menez, Bill Syken and Andrea Woo

Which state produces the most linebackers? Which region is birthplace to the most great pitchers? Which state has the most golf courses? Which counties have produced the most Olympians? You can learn a lot by looking at our sports-obsessed nation cartographically

maps by International Mapping

The Great American Sports Atlas

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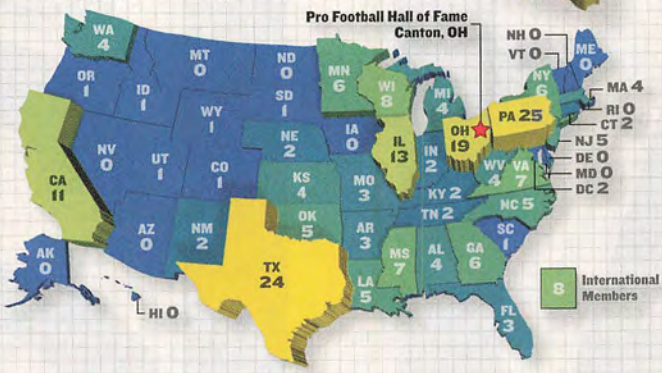
SIATLAS

Hall of Fame Members

New York has produced the most greats in basketball and baseball, Texas is tops in pro football immortals, and, of course, Canada is hockey's cradle. Here's where the best of the best came from in the four major sports and a few others



Pro Football

Texas (24) has produced more players and coaches in the group than any other state. But Pennsylvania (22) will narrow the gap in 2005, when Pittsburgh native **Dan Marino** *(right)* will surely be inducted. He will join the Keystone State's impressive list of passers, which includes Johnny Unitas, Joe Namath and Joe Montana.

SOURCE: PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

TSN/ISM (DIMAGGIO); CORBIS (BANKS); TOM DIPACE (MOLITOR)

PAUL MOLITOR
MINNESOTA

Baseball Hall of Fame
Cooperstown, NY

New York 22
Vermont 1
New Hampshire 1
Maine 0
Massachusetts 11
Rhode Island 3
Connecticut 3
New Jersey 3
Delaware 0
Maryland 7
DC 0
Pennsylvania 18
Wisconsin 4
Michigan 3
Ohio 13
Illinois 10
Indiana 9
Missouri 7
Kentucky 3
West Virginia 3
Virginia 3
North Carolina 7
Arkansas 6
Tennessee 1
Alabama 11
South Carolina 1
Georgia 5
Mississippi 1
Louisiana 3
Florida 3

8 International Members

Baseball

A large number of New York's leading total of 22 members starred on New York City teams, none more famously than Yankees greats Lou Gehrig, Whitey Ford and Phil Rizzuto. John McGraw, who managed the Giants to three World Series championships, was born upstate in Truxton, 230 miles from the Polo Grounds. Among California's 19-player contingent are four more who made their marks in New York City: Joe DiMaggio (Yankees), Gary Carter and Tom Seaver (Mets) and Duke Snider (Brooklyn Dodgers). Among the Negro league players represented are Oscar Charleston (Indiana), Josh Gibson (Georgia), Buck Leonard (North Carolina) and Satchel Paige (Alabama).

SOURCE: BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

BC 2
AB 7
SK 17
MB 18
ON 114
QC 51
NF 1
NB 1
Hockey Hall of Fame
Toronto, ON
MN 2
PA 1
NY 2
KS 1
MO 1
11 Non-North American Mem

Hockey

Not only are most inductees from Canada, but also a great portion of those are from Ontario. The U.S. players are so few that we can name them all: Pat LaFontaine (Missouri, *right*), Joe Mullen and Billy Burch (New York), Hobey Baker (Pennsylvania), Si Griffis (Kansas) and Frank Brimsek and Moose Goheen (Minnesota).

SOURCE: HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

Basketball Hall of Fame
Springfield, MA

NH 0
VT 0
ME 0
NY 30
MA 0
RI 0
CT 2
NJ 6
DE 1
MD 0
DC 2
PA 17
WA 0
OR 1
CA 8
ID 0
NV 0
MT 1
WY 0
UT 1
AZ 0
CO 0
NM 0
ND 0
SD 0
NE 0
KS 2
OK 2
TX 2
MN 1
IA 0
MO 3
AR 0
LA 6
WI 1
IL 6
MI 3
IN 4
OH 4
KY 7
TN 2
MS 0
AL 1
WV 2
VA 1
NC 5
SC 1
GA 1
FL 0
AK 0
HI 0

Pro Basketball

New York's 30 players, the largest contingent from any state, include the game's alltime leading scorer (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), its greatest artist (Julius Erving, *right*) and the coach with the most titles (Red Auerbach). Florida doesn't have a Hall member, but that should change soon because former Spurs center David Robinson was born in Key West.

SOURCE: BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

JOHN BIEVER (MARINO); BILL SIKES/AP (LAFONTAINE); WALTER IOOSS JR. (ERVING)

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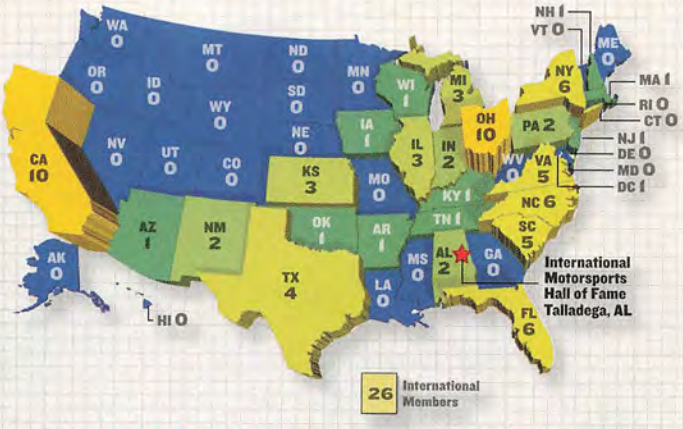
Pro Bowling

Why is Missouri a fitting home for the Professional Bowlers Association Hall? While the Show Me State has produced one member fewer than California (the leader with seven inductees), those six Missourians have combined for 95 tour victories, which is the most of any state and 23 more than California. Florida, with five members, is second in tournament wins (87), but nearly half of those victories belong to one bowler: six-time PBA player of the year **Walter Ray Williams Jr.** *(above)*. With his next win Williams will tie Washington-born Earl Anthony's alltime record of 41. Ohio has six enshrinees with a total of 77 tour victories, led by 26-time winner Don Johnson.

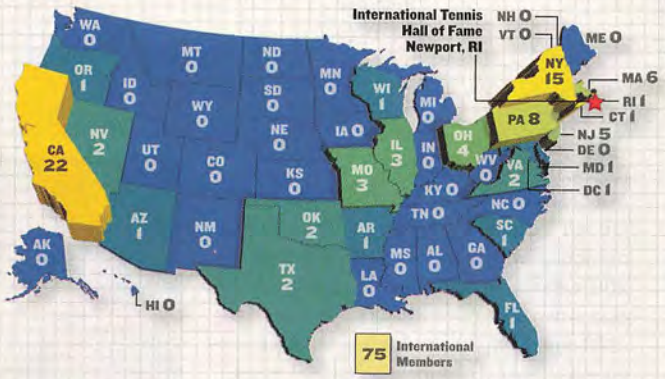
SOURCE: PROFESSIONAL BOWLERS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



Auto Racing

Old motor sports joke: When was the first race? Answer: Minutes after the second car was created. While that's an exaggeration—but not by much—the joke underscores the universal appeal of racing. And it helps explain why there's so much geographic diversity among the members of this hall. Though the hub of NASCAR is Charlotte, North Carolina has produced fewer inductees (six) than California (10) and Ohio, which also has 10, including **Bobby Rahal** *(above)*. In fact, forget the myth that good drivers come only from the Southeast, because Illinois (three) and Kansas (three), for instance, have produced more Hall-caliber racers than Alabama (two), Arkansas (one) and Kentucky (one).

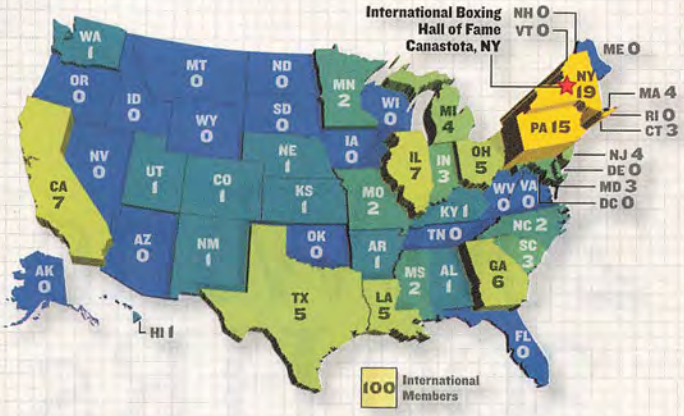
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL MOTORSPORTS HALL OF FAME



Tennis

Florida may be the breeding ground for most of today's young tennis champions, but it has a long way to go before it catches California, which leads all states in Hall members with 22. The Sunshine State has only one enshrinee: 18-time Grand Slam singles titlist **Chris Evert** *(right)*, who has the highest career winning percentage in pro history (.897). Major urban centers have produced their share of tennis stars as well. Of the 15 members from New York, 11 were born in either Manhattan or Brooklyn. Althea Gibson, the first black player to win Wimbledon and U.S. championships, grew up in Harlem but was born in Silver, S.C., making her that state's only honored player.

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME



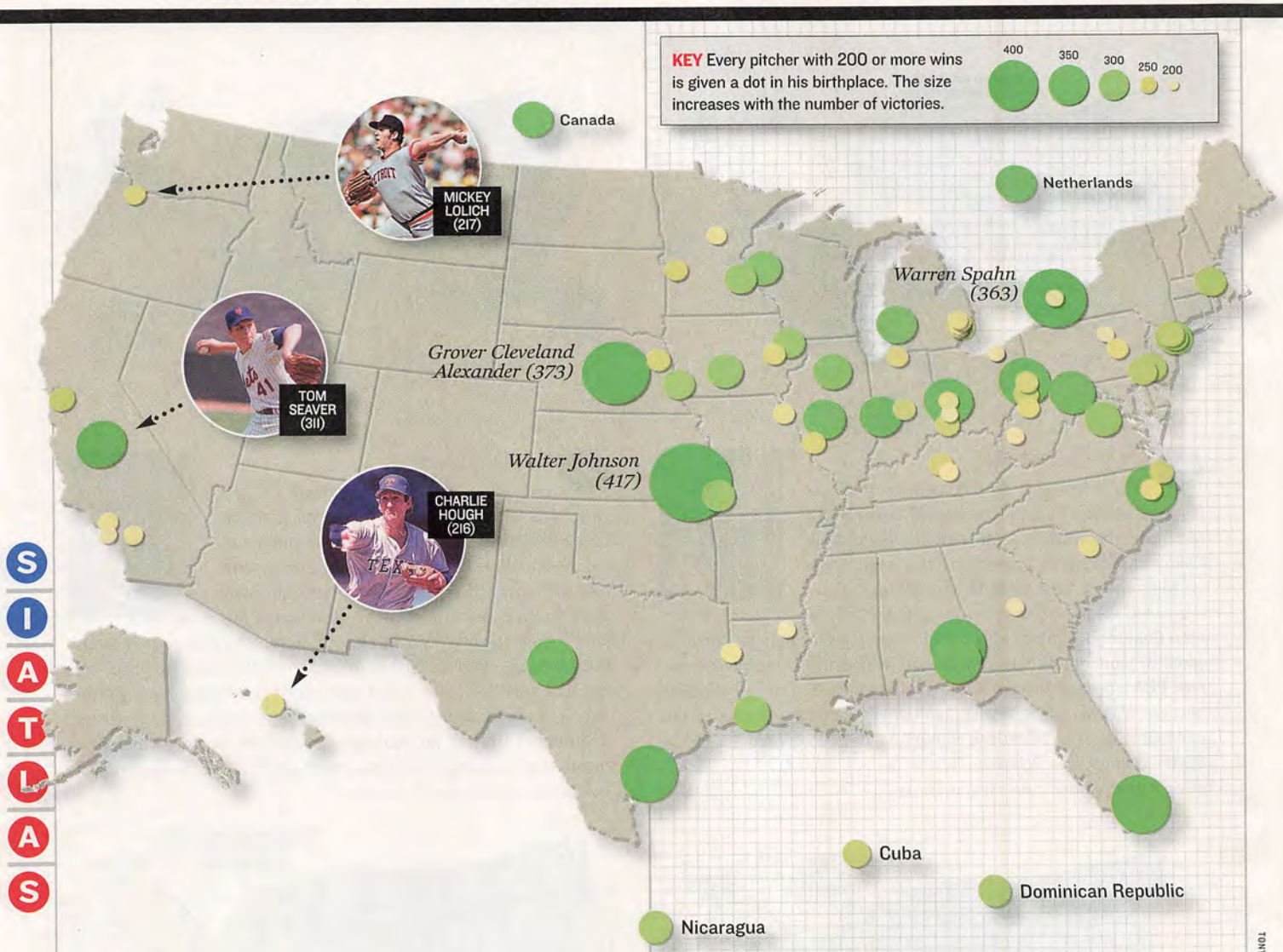
Boxing

When it comes to the best boxers of all time, New York (19 members) and Pennsylvania (15) knock out the competition. The two states are home to more than 30% of the U.S.-born enshrinees, most of whom are from the cities of New York, which produced Jake La Motta; Philadelphia, birthplace of old-timer Jack O'Brien; and Pittsburgh, where Billy Conn was born. What Alabama, Arkansas and Kentucky lack in numbers (one each), they make up for in quality—Joe Louis, **Sonny Liston** *(above)* and Muhammad Ali, respectively. Of the 100 international-born members, 24 were bare-knuckle pugilists from England, the birthplace of the sport.

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL BOXING HALL OF FAME

SI ATLAS

JOHN F. MARTIN/AP (WILLIAMS); GEORGE TIEDEMANN/GT IMAGES (RAHAL); TONY TRIOLO (EVERT); BETTMANN/CORBIS (LISTON)



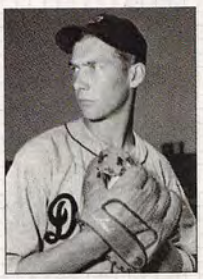
SI ATLAS

200 Wins 300 HRs

Maybe it's something in the air, the water or the surroundings. Whatever the case, many of the winningest pitchers and top home run hitters in the major leagues since 1920 were born in close proximity to one another

Pitchers

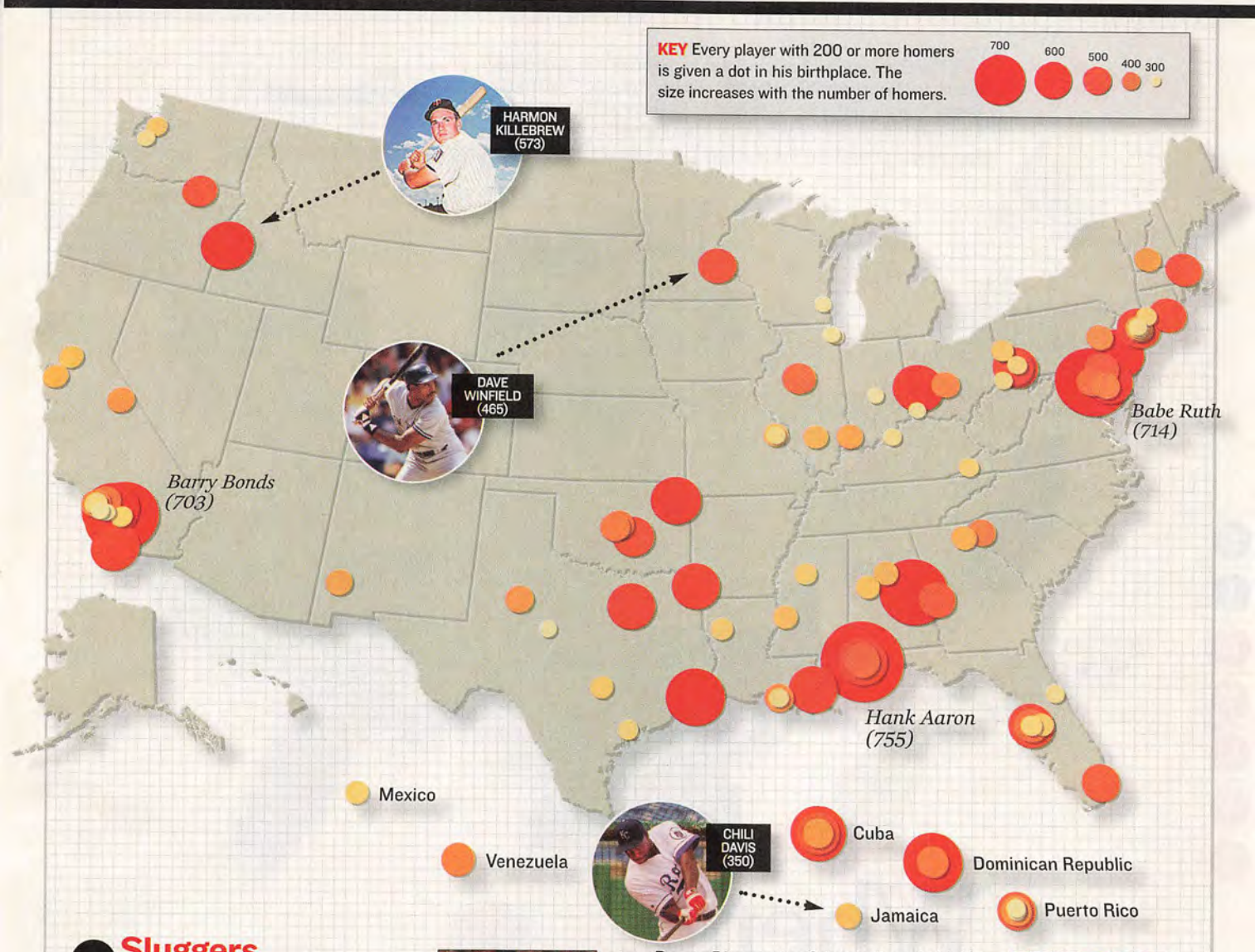
The Midwest has been a breeding ground for quality starting pitchers—Ohio in particular, with a high of eight natives in the 200-career-win club. The Ohio contingent includes two 300-game winners: **Roger Clemens** (328, *top right*), though a self-proclaimed Texan, was born in Dayton, and Phil Niekro (318) in Blaine. Niekro's younger brother, Joe (221), born a stone's throw from Blaine, in Martins Ferry, is also counted. The Niekros are the winningest siblings in major league history.



A fivesome from Detroit—**Hal Newhouser** *(bottom right)*, Milt Pappas, Billy Pierce, Frank Tanana and Bob Welch—gives them the most from any city. And now that he's back as a starter, John Smoltz (163 wins, at age 37) has a chance to make it six. In all, Michigan ranks second in 200-win club members, with seven. Get used to the look of this map: Other than Smoltz, only Jamie Moyer (192, born in Sellersville, Pa.), Pedro Martinez (182, Dominican Republic) and Kenny Rogers (176, Savannah) are likely to reach the milestone within the next few seasons.

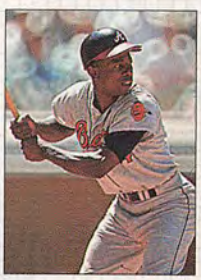
Hawaii's representative is Charlie Hough (216), of Honolulu.

TONY TRIOLO (LOLICH); HERB SCHARFMAN (SEAVER); RONALD C. MODRA (HOUGH); ROBERT BECK (CLEMENS); AP (NEWHOUSER)

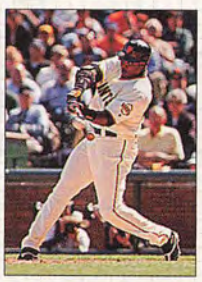


Sluggers

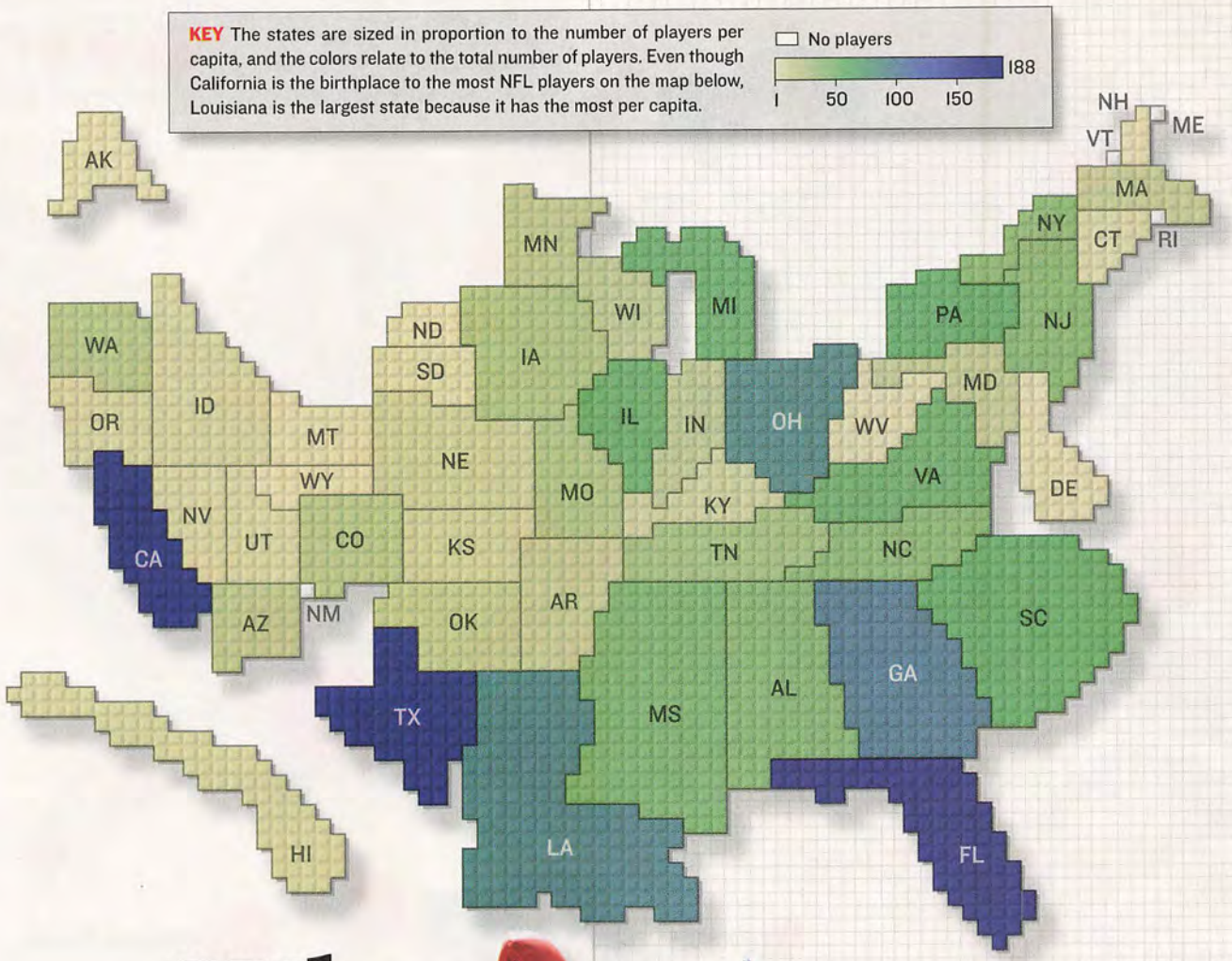
Home runs are baseball's universal language, and it follows that the players who have hit 300 dingers in their major league careers are, by nationality at least, among the sport's most diverse group. Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa, born in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, a city previously known for its willowy shortstops, has launched more long balls (574) than any other player from outside the U.S. The 1998 home run derby between Sosa and the St. Louis Cardinals' **Mark McGwire** *(near right, top)*, who was born in Pomona, Calif., was a titanic-yet-friendly contest that brought together English- and Spanish-speaking fans all rooting to see the fall of Roger Maris's long-standing season record. The quest to break 61 (McGwire wound up with 70, Sosa 66) helped elevate the star power of Latin American players. Sosa's blasting milestone homers in quick succession—No. 300 in 1999, No. 400 in 2001 and No. 500 in '03—moved him to the top of the list of sluggers born outside the 50 States, a roster that was started in 1969 when Ponce, Puerto Rico, native Orlando Cepeda hit his 300th. Since then hitters from Canada (Larry Walker), Cuba (Jose Canseco, Rafael Palmeiro, Tony Perez), Jamaica (Chili Davis), Mexico (Vinny Castilla) and Venezuela (Andres Galarraga) have surpassed 300.



On the map of the U.S. three clusters, corresponding to the game's most prolific sluggers, rise in sharp relief. **Hank Aaron** (755, *bottom left*) towers over Mobile, **Babe Ruth** (714, *bottom right*) over Baltimore and **Barry Bonds** (703, *top right*) over Riverside, Calif. But strung like satellites around them, several other power hitters can be found in oddly close proximity: also in Mobile, Willie McCovey (521); 265 miles to the northeast, in Westfield, Ala., Willie Mays (660); and 150 miles to the west, in Gretna, La., Mel Ott (511). Sudlersville, Md., a mere Ruthian blast from Baltimore, is the birthplace of Jimmie Foxx (534). And Bonds presides over a Southern California clique that includes McGwire (583) and San Diego native Ted Williams (521). From these three nodes come nearly half of the 500-home-run club.

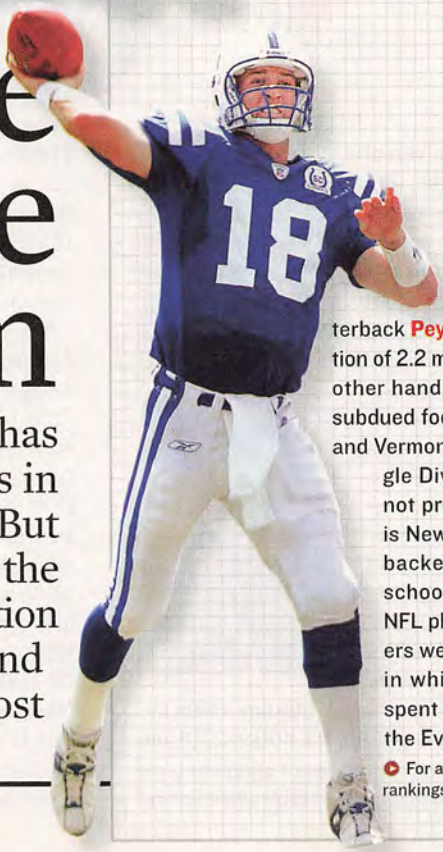


AP (KILLEBREW); RONALD C. MODRA (WINFIELD); CHARLES KRUPA/AP (DAVIS); V.J. LOVERO (MCGWIRE); NEIL LEIFER (AARON); JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/KRT/ABACA (BONDS); TRANSCENDENTAL GRAPHICS (RUTH)



Where Pros Come From

On numbers alone California has produced the most current pros in each of the three major sports. But on a per capita basis, states in the South have a heavier concentration of NBA and NFL talent, and baseball has an unlikely outpost

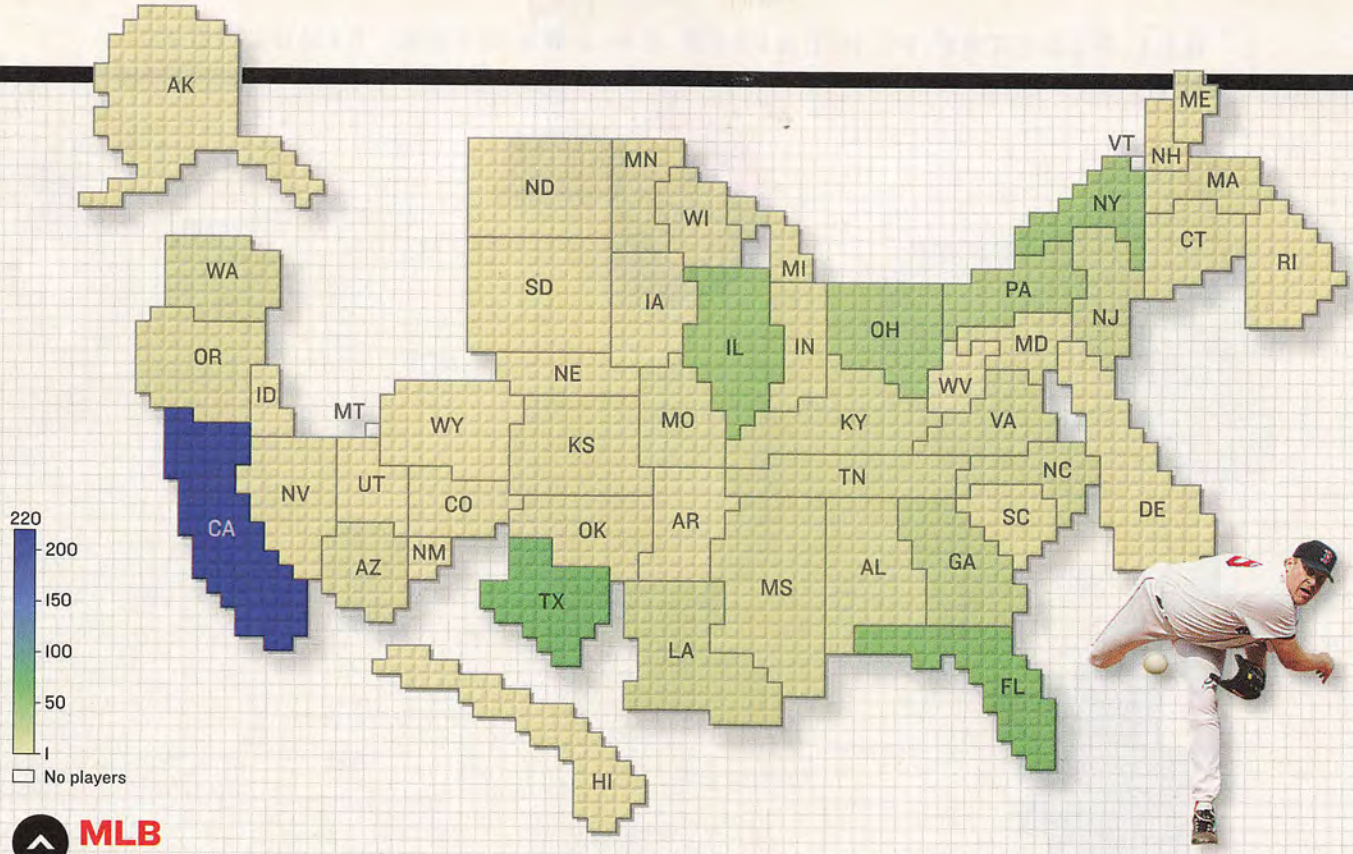


ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES (MANNING)

NFL

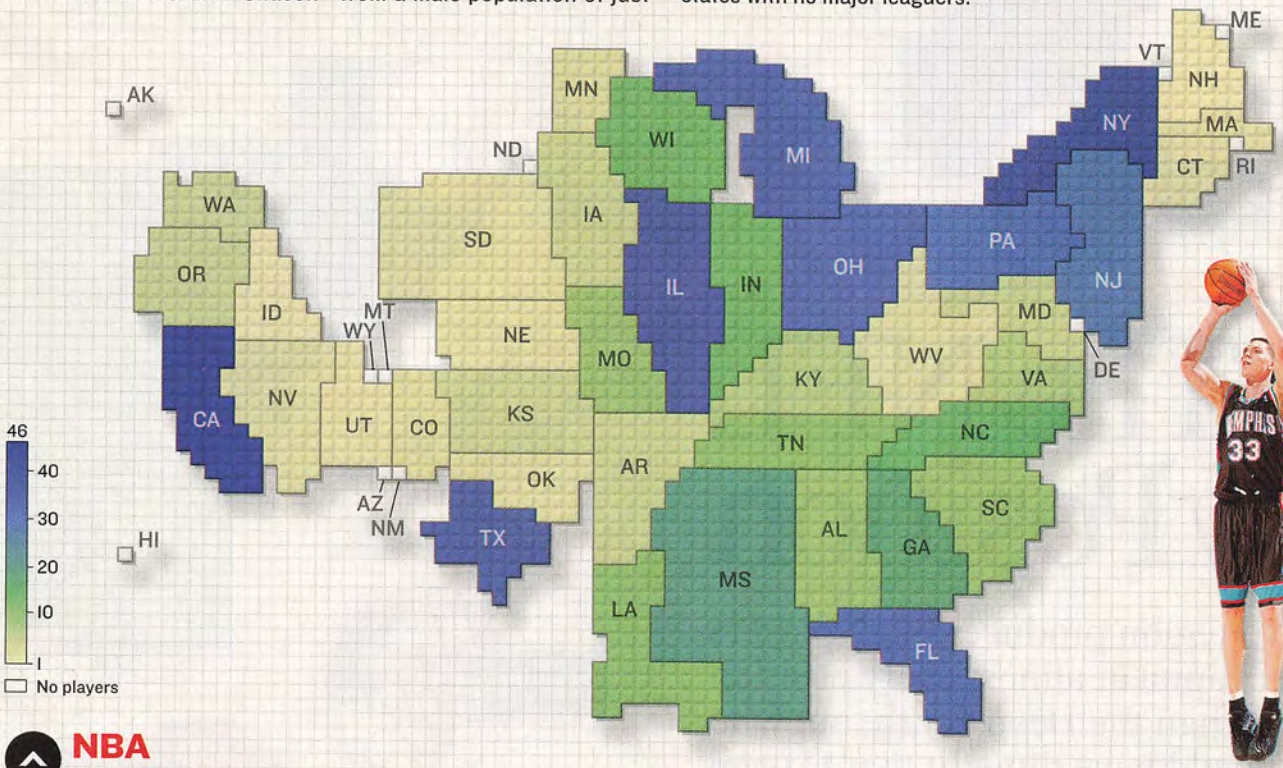
The state that contributes the most NFL players per capita isn't California, Florida or Texas. It's Louisiana, which has 85 players in the league, including Colts quarterback **Peyton Manning** *(left)*, from a population of 2.2 million males. In New England, on the other hand, you see the effect of a relatively subdued football culture. Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont are states that do not have a single Division I-A program, and they have not produced a current NFL player. Why is New Mexico, where Bears middle linebacker Brian Urlacher starred in high school and college, shown as having no NFL players from the state? Because players were counted as natives of the states in which they were born, and Urlacher spent his first eight years in Washington, the Evergreen State gets credit for him.

For a complete list of the current pros per capita rankings in each sport by state, go to **SI.com**.



MLB

California's 220 major leaguers is more than triple the total that came out of runner-up Texas (67). Yet in the players-per-capita rankings California is second to Alaska, which has five players in the big leagues—including Red Sox hero **Curt Schilling** *(above)* and Rockies closer Shawn Chacon—from a male population of just 324,000 (compared with the Golden State's 16.9 million). With 17 players in the big leagues and a male population of 1.4 million, Mississippi is third, while Delaware, the sixth-least-populated state, is fourth with four players. Montana and Vermont are the only states with no major leaguers.



NBA

While California again leads all states in the total number of players in the league (46), it isn't in the top 10 when it comes to players per capita. The No. 1 state by that measure is Mississippi, which has 11 players in the NBA and a male population of 1.4 million. South Dakota has only two players—Grizzlies sharpshooting forward **Mike Miller** *(above)* and Bulls rookie center Jared Reiner—but it is second in the per capita ratings because it is the fifth smallest state. Three other areas of concentrated hoops talent are in the Midwest: Michigan (21 players, 4.9 million males), Illinois (24, 6.1 million) and Ohio (20, 5.5 million).

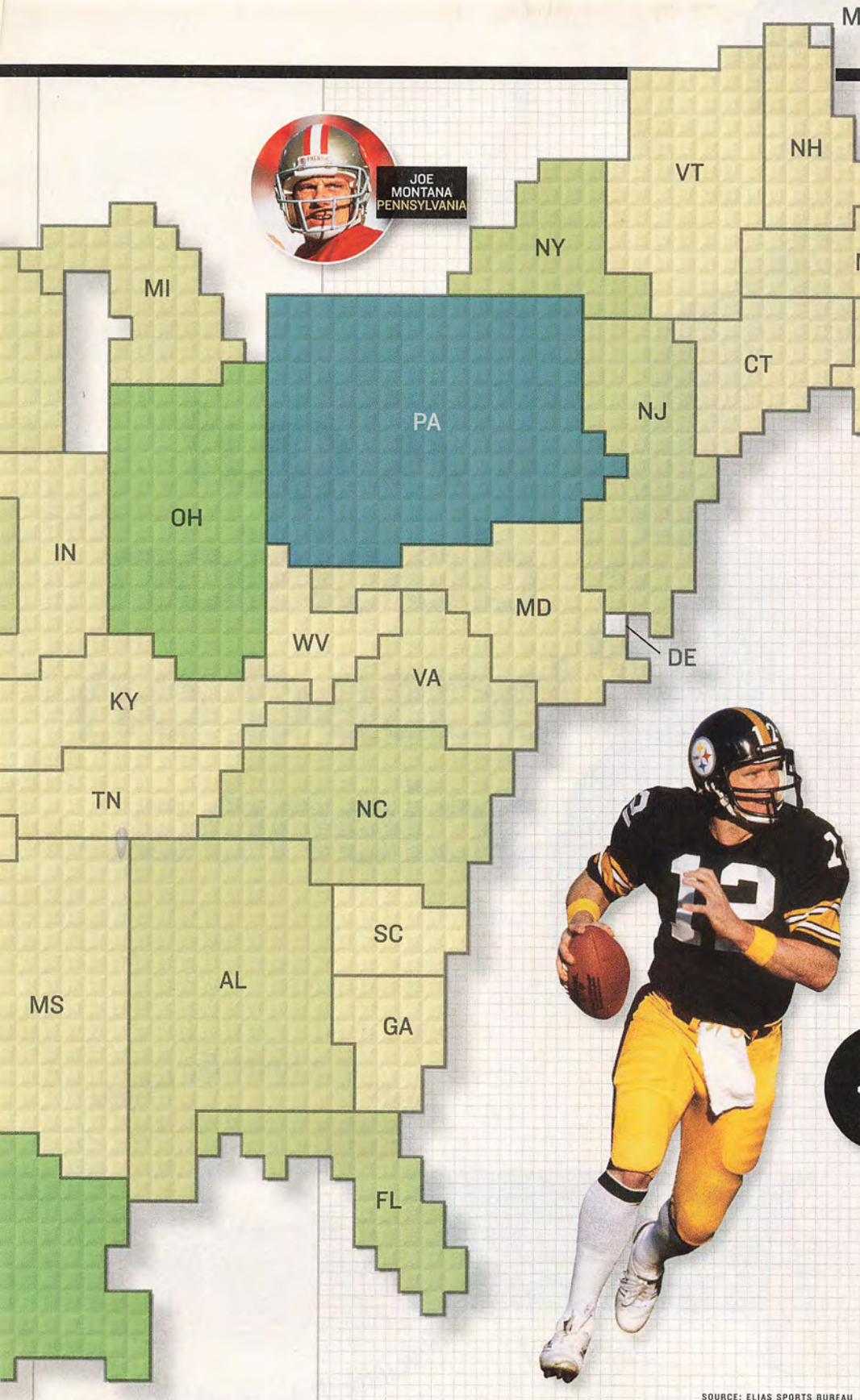
SOURCE: ELIAS SPORTS BUREAU

CHUCK SOLOMON (SCHILLING); JESSE D. GARRABRANT/NBAE/GETTY (MILLER)

SI ATLAS

The NFL by Position

No region produces more players per capita at almost every position than the Deep South, but who would have thought that Hawaii would be a paradise for linemen?



Where The QBs Come From

Linebackers, linemen and running backs might have their roots predominantly in the Deep South, but quarterbacks are a more geographically diverse group. Though it ranks fourth in total signal-callers produced (24) since 1970, Louisiana has sent more passers per capita to the NFL than any other state over that span. The Sportsman's Paradise (birthplace of **Terry Bradshaw**, *left*, Jake Delhomme, Peyton Manning and Doug Williams) edges out Pennsylvania (which has delivered Joe Montana, Joe Namath and Johnny Unitas) and four lightly populated states—Iowa, Montana, North Dakota and Idaho. The union's most populous state, California, ranks first in total quarterbacks (88) but is 10th per capita. Had Washington, D.C., which has produced Byron Leftwich, Anthony Dilweg and Mike Kruczek, been included, the District would have been ahead of Louisiana on the per capita list.

For a complete list of state rankings by position, go to si.com.

SIMON BRUTY (BLEDSOE); PETER READ MILLER (MONTANA); HEINZ KLUETMEIER (BRADSHAW); JOHN BIEVER (WILLIAMS); HEINZ KLUETMEIER (DELHOMME); RONALD C. MODRA (FOUTS)

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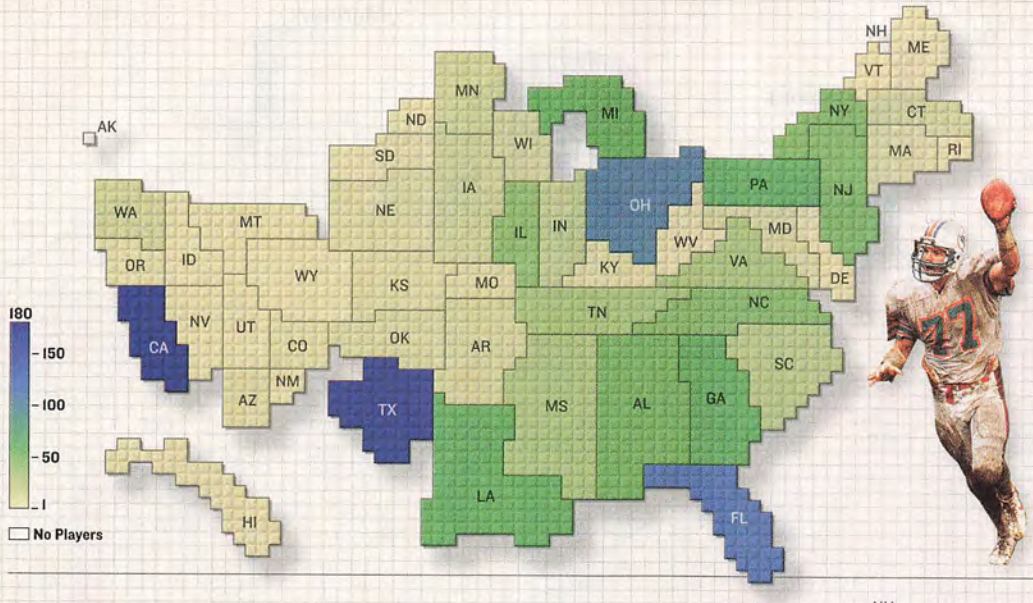
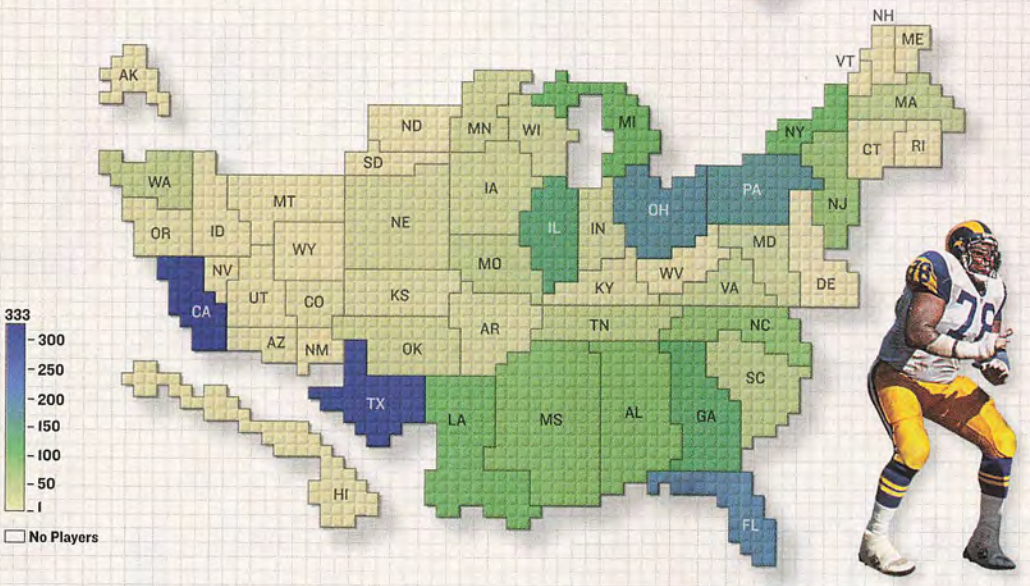


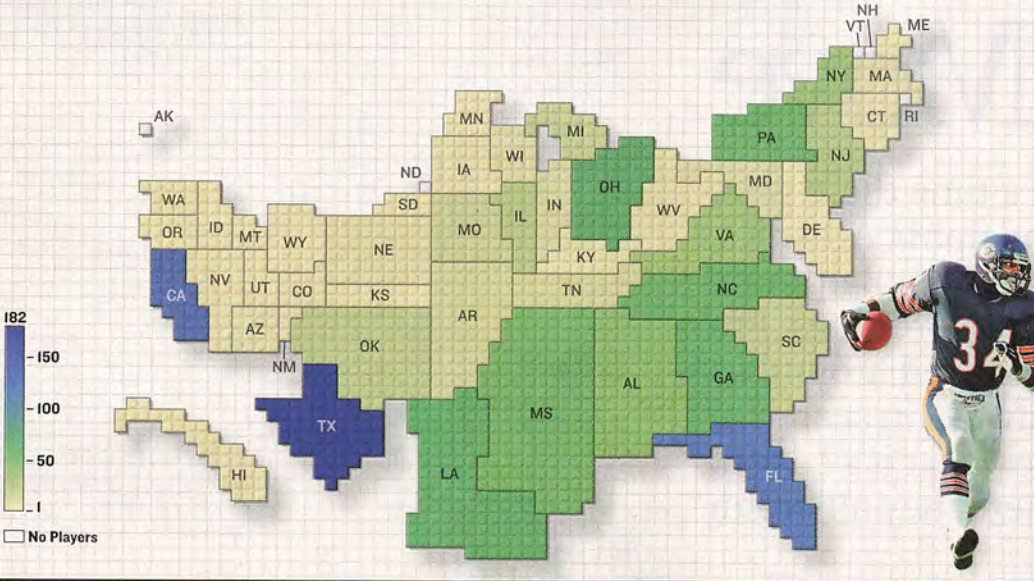
Linebackers

The Gulf Coast is king, topped by Louisiana—which has exported Pro Bowlers **A.J. Duhe** *(left)*, Isiah Robertson and 64 others—then Alabama (Robert Brazile and Cornelius Bennett) and Mississippi (Johnie Cooks). While there are 180 California-born linebackers (placing that state 24th per capita), the next linebacker born in Alaska or New Hampshire will be the first in those states.



Linemen

Hall of Fame tackle **Jackie Slater** *(left)* and defensive lineman L.C. Greenwood hail from Mississippi, the top state for players in the trenches, just ahead of Louisiana and Alabama. This is the best category for the corn-fed boys of the Midwest; Iowa and Nebraska rank third (tied with Alabama) and seventh per capita, respectively. The sleeper state in this category: Hawaii has produced 25 linemen, placing the Aloha State fifth per capita.

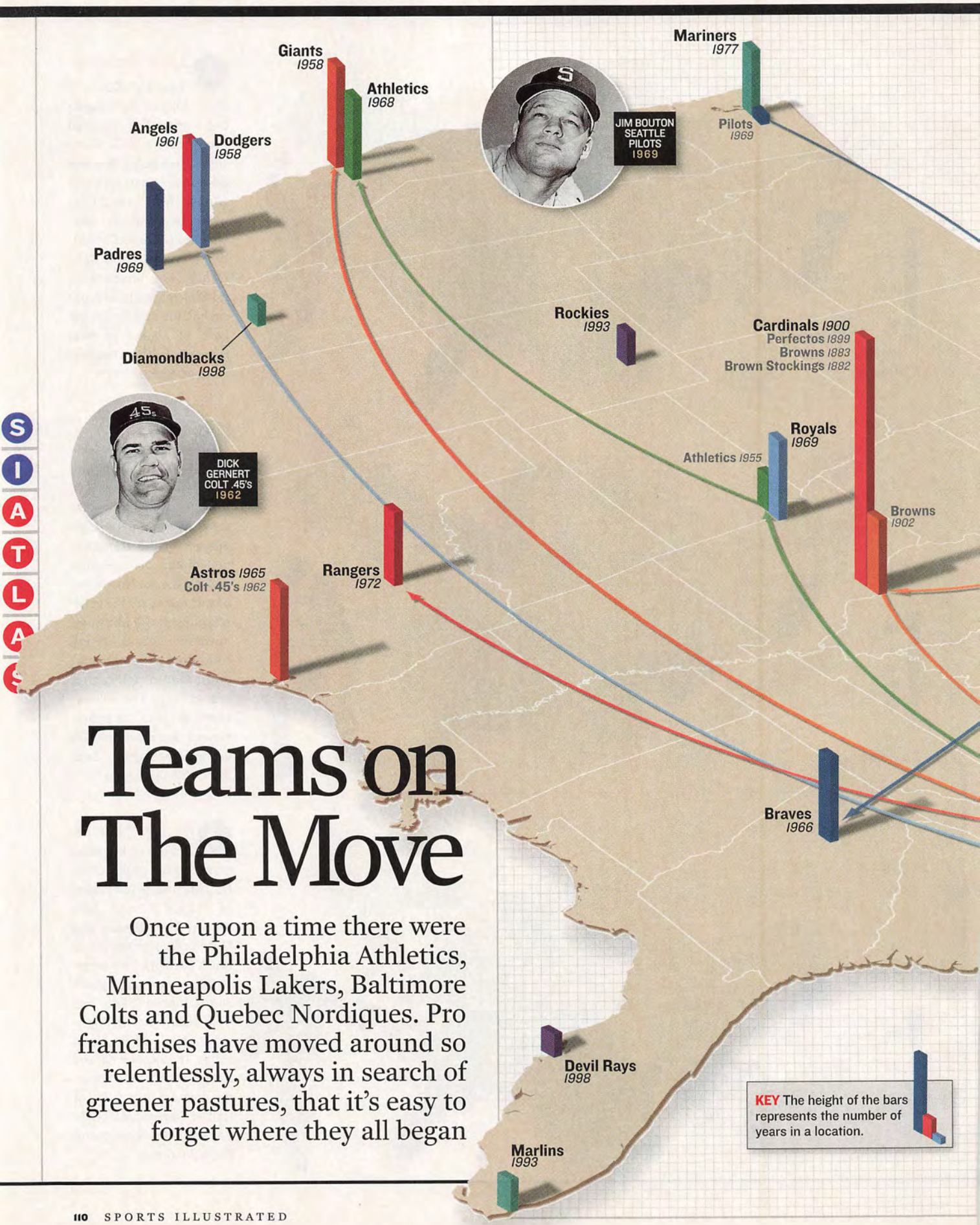


Running Backs

The top eight states in runners per capita—from No. 1 Mississippi (birthplace of **Walter Payton**, *left*, Wilbert Montgomery and Marcus Dupree) to No. 8 North Carolina—are located below the Mason-Dixon line. Nebraska (ninth) and Ohio (12th) are the highest-ranking non-Southern states. The sleeper: Kansas is 31st per capita but boasts the greatest proportion of Hall of Fame backs (Gale Sayers, John Riggins and Barry Sanders).

SI ATLAS

GEORGE TIEDEMANN/GT IMAGES (DUHE); PETER BROUILLET/WIREIMAGE.COM (SLATER); JOHN SWART/AP (PAYTON)



SI ATLAS

Teams on The Move

Once upon a time there were the Philadelphia Athletics, Minneapolis Lakers, Baltimore Colts and Quebec Nordiques. Pro franchises have moved around so relentlessly, always in search of greener pastures, that it's easy to forget where they all began

Baseball Goes West

NAP LAJOIE
CLEVELAND
BRONCOS
1902

Like the Westward expansion that preceded it by a century, the migration of franchises has observed the logic of Manifest Destiny: Baseball is America's pastime, and where the land is open, the soil fertile and the sky wide, the game must take root. (In the only eastward relocation in the last 35 years, the Seattle Pilots, 64–98 during their lone season, in 1969, fled only to be reborn as the not-much-better Milwaukee Brewers.) We saw the California transplantation of the Dodgers, Giants and Athletics, and the creation of new clubs in Texas, in the Rocky Mountains and in the Arizona desert, the last in 1998 when Jerry Colangelo unwrapped the expansion Diamondbacks in Phoenix and opened a ballpark that featured a swimming pool. At the end of Arizona's fourth season, the fledgling franchise won the World Series, dethroning the East Coast, old-guard New York Yankees. Meanwhile, Chicago remained home to the team that has stayed in the same place the longest: the Cubs, who were founded as the White Stockings in 1871 and were also known as the Colts and the Orphans before changing their name to the Cubs in 1903.

White Sox *1901*
White Stockings *1900*

Millers *1894*

Cubs *1903*
Orphans *1898*
Colts *1890*
White Stockings *1871*

Twins *1961*

Brewers *1970*
Brewers *1901*
Braves *1953*

Tigers *1901*

Indians *1915*
Naps *1903*
Broncos *1902*
Blues *1901*

BOSTON
PILGRIMS
1903

Phillies *1945*
Blue Jays *1943*
Phillies *1890*
Quakers *1883*

Blue Jays *1977*

Yankees *1913*
Highlanders *1903*

Expos *1969*

Red Sox *1907*
Pilgrims *1903*
Somersets *1902*
Americans *1901*

Pirates *1891*
Innocents *1890*
Alleghenies *1882*

Braves *1941*
Bees *1936*
Braves *1912*
Doves *1907*
Beaneaters *1883*
Red Caps *1876*
Red Stockings *1871*

Athletics *1901*

Orioles *1901*

Orioles *1954*

Nationals *2005*

Senators *1961*

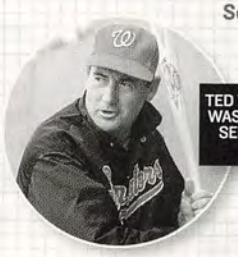
Mets *1962*

Giants *1885*
Gothams *1883*

Reds *1960*
Red Legs *1954*
Reds *1890*
Red Stockings *1882*

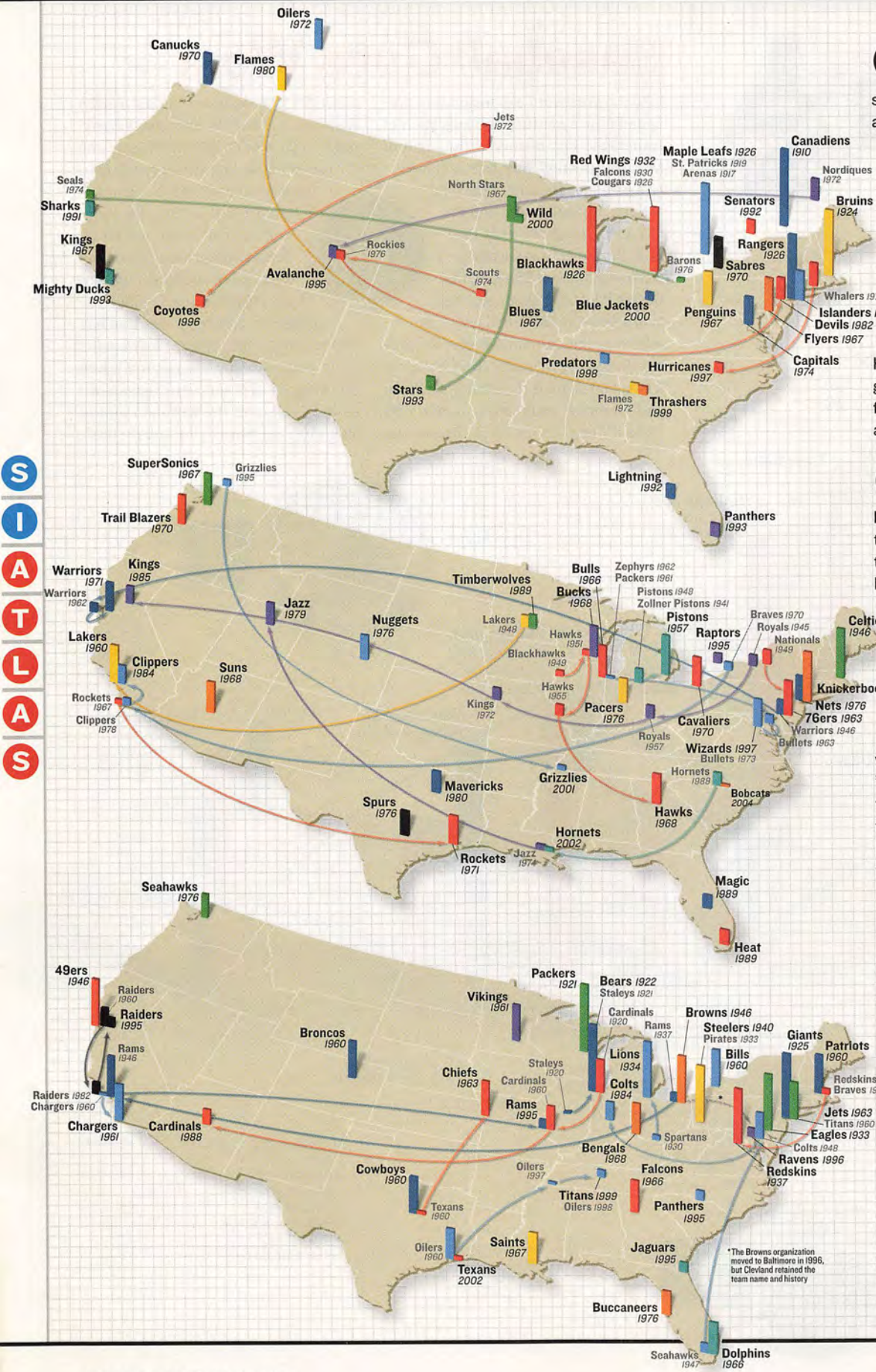
Senators *1956*
Nationals *1905*
Senators *1901*

Dodgers *1932*
Robins *1914*
Dodgers *1911*
Superbas *1899*
Grooms *1891*
Bridegrooms *1888*
Grays *1885*
Atlantics *1884*



TED WILLIAMS
WASHINGTON
SENATORS
1969

TRANSCENDENTAL GRAPHICS (BOUTON, LAJOIE, PILGRIMS); FRED KAPLAN (WILLIAMS); SI LIBRARY (GERNERT)



The NHL

A wave of expansion in the early 1990s added nine franchises in areas such as Florida, Atlanta and Nashville. In the last 11 years four teams (the North Stars, Nordiques, Jets and Whalers) relocated to nontraditional hockey cities Dallas, Denver, Phoenix and Raleigh, respectively. Hockey may be Canada's game, but just six of the 30 franchises are in Canadian cities.

The NBA

Before 1985 the league had not gone more than five years without a team switching cities. Since David Stern became commissioner in '84 he has preferred expansion to relocation, adding seven teams since '88. From '85 to 2001 there were no franchise shifts. In '94 he blocked a proposal to move the Timberwolves from Minnesota to New Orleans, and in '99 the Grizzlies from Vancouver to St. Louis.

The NFL

No team had relocated in 19 years when Al Davis took the Raiders from Oakland to Los Angeles in 1982. That opened the door for other moves, and six teams have switched cities since, including the Raiders, who went back to Oakland in 1995. L.A. has gone nine years without a team, but that could change soon, as the Chargers, Saints and Vikings have expressed interest in moving there.

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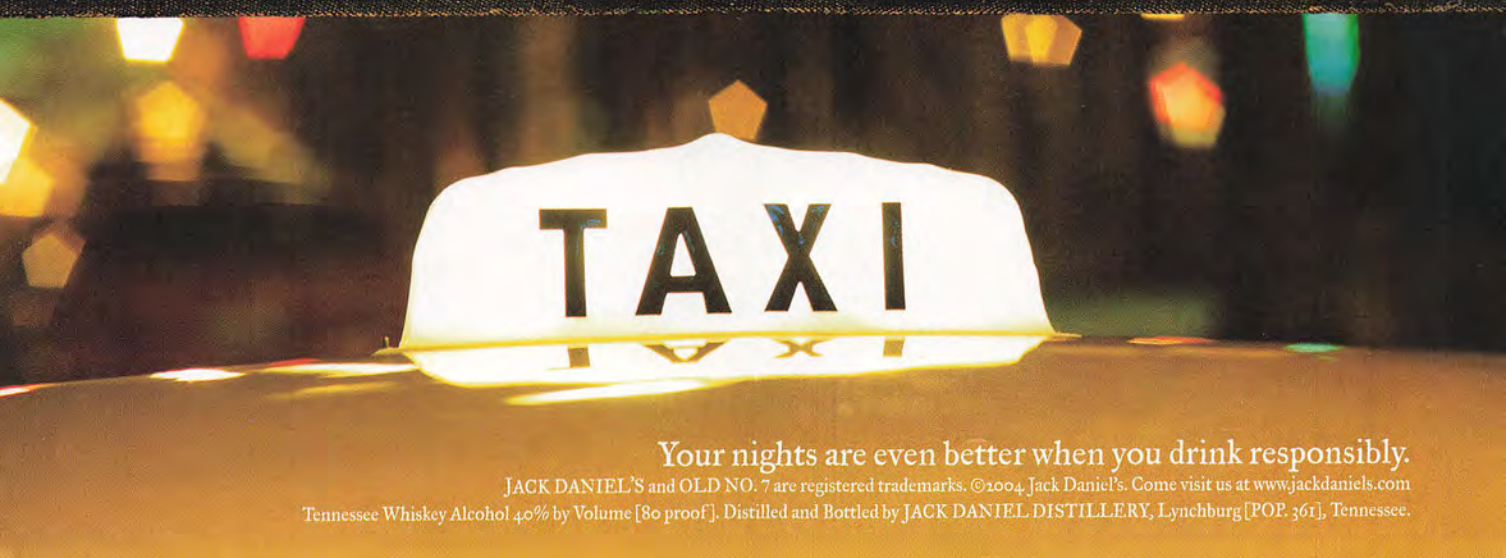

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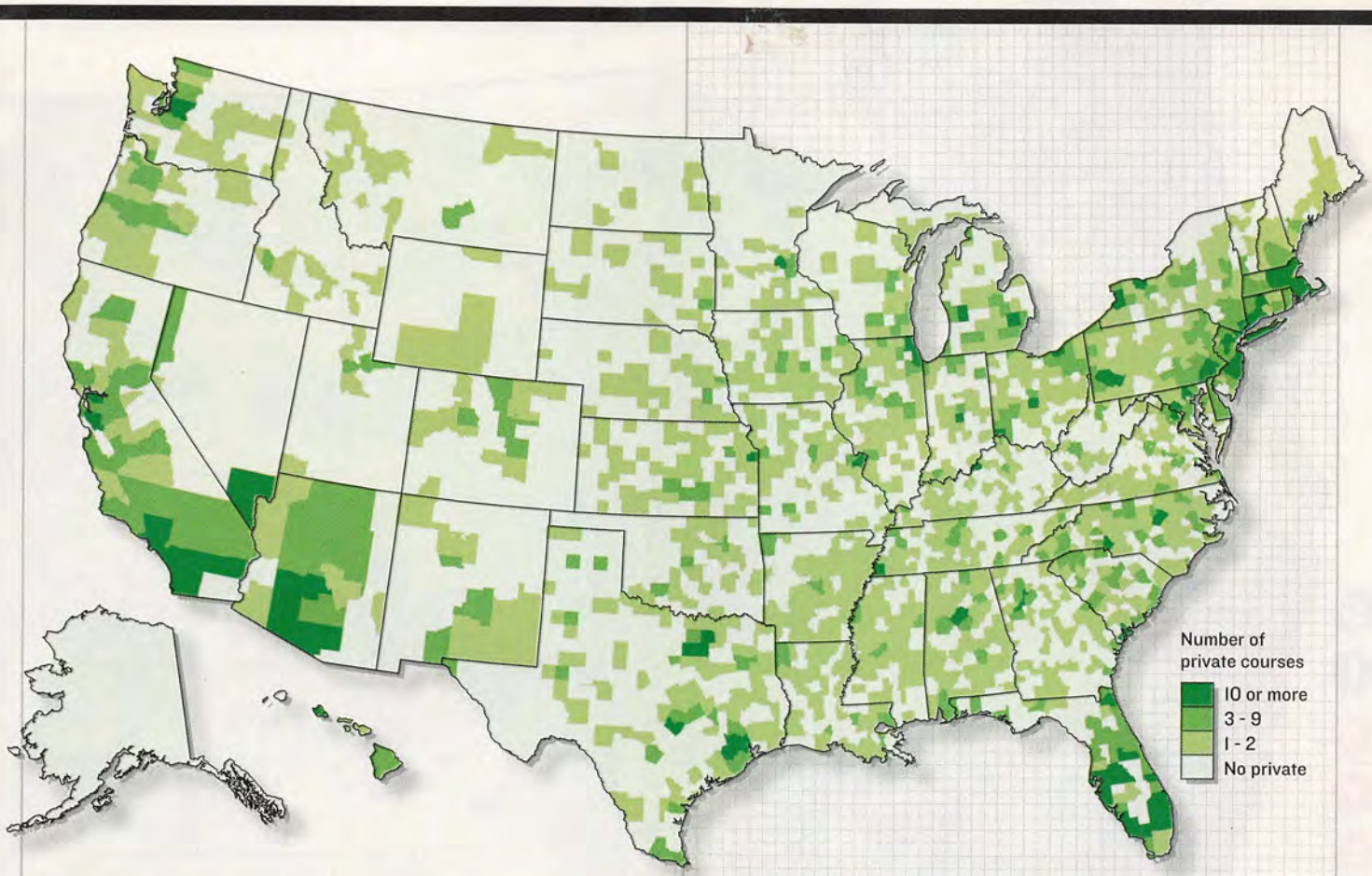
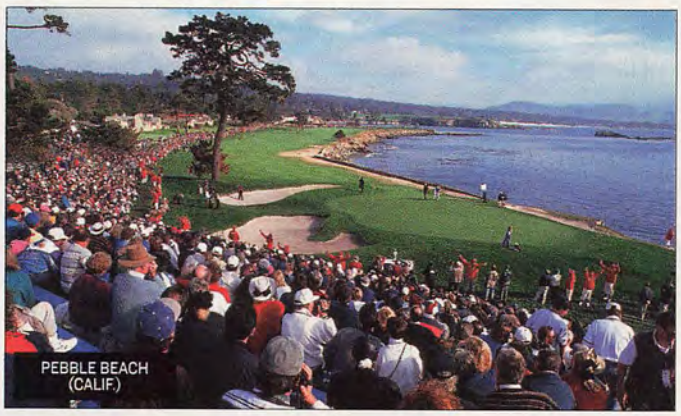
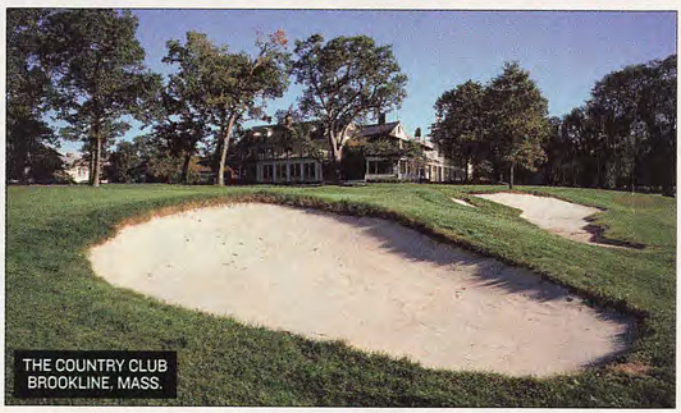


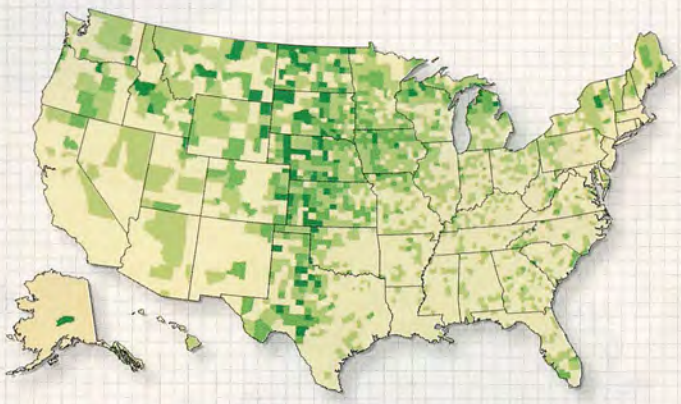

PEBBLE BEACH (CALIF.)


THE COUNTRY CLUB BROOKLINE, MASS.

JOHN BURGESS (PEBBLE BEACH); FRED VUICH/GOLF MAGAZINE (THE COUNTRY CLUB)

Private Courses by County

Counties in western states tend to be larger than those in the East, which is why Las Vegas turns the southern tip of Nevada into one dark-green splotch, and Phoenix and Tucson have the same effect on southern Arizona. They are the country's population growth centers; venerable sites like Winged Foot, Oakmont, Oak Hill and The Country Club, on the other hand, are found in the small dark blocks in the Northeast.



Golf Courses per Capita

Florida and California have the most courses, but they also have large populations—teeming with golfers. The counties with the most courses per capita, located from the Texas panhandle north through the Dakotas, are low in head count. With two 18-hole layouts and a population of 783, Hooker County in Nebraska is No. 1 in courses per capita.

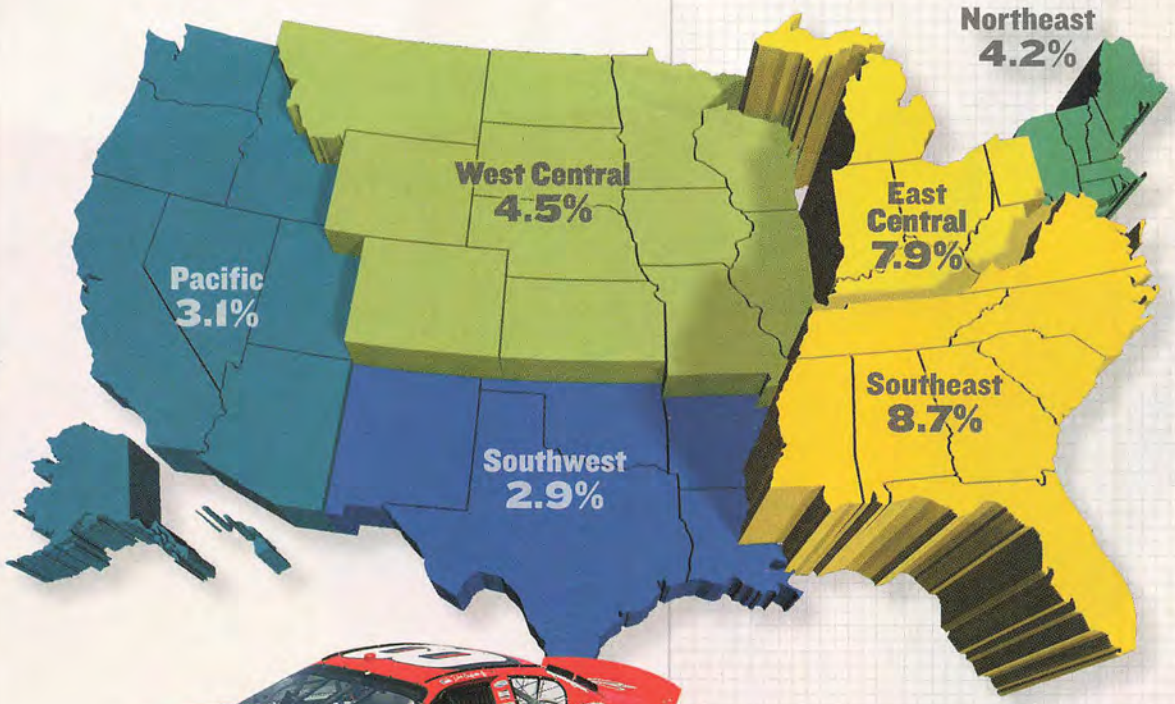
Courses per 10,000 people
4.0 and above
2.0 - 3.9
1.0 - 1.9
Below 1.0

SOURCE: UNITED STATES GOLF FEDERATION

GOLF COURSES PER CAPITA

SI ATLAS

LEE TREVINO
TEXAS



What Fans Watch

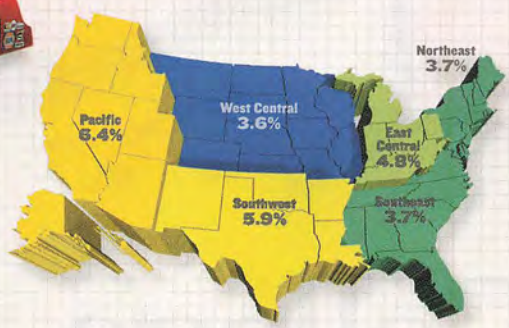
The most watched sport on television continues to be pro football by a large margin, but NASCAR viewership is climbing steadily. The NBA has caught on out West, and baseball is inching back to its pre-1994 strike level

KEVIN KANE/WIREIMAGE.COM

NOTE The percentages refer to the average number of households in a region that tuned in each week in 2003.

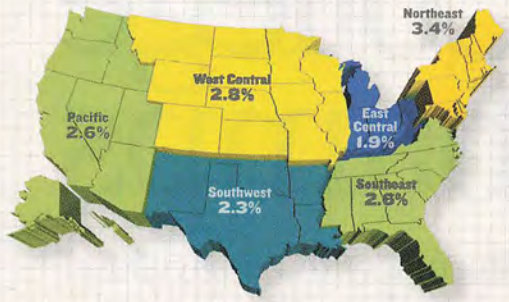
NASCAR

Not surprisingly, the Southeast generated the highest viewership (an average of 8.7% of households or 1.9 million) in 2003. Atlanta had the highest concentration of viewers (152,000). NASCAR was also popular in New York City and Los Angeles, which tied for second with 128,000 each.



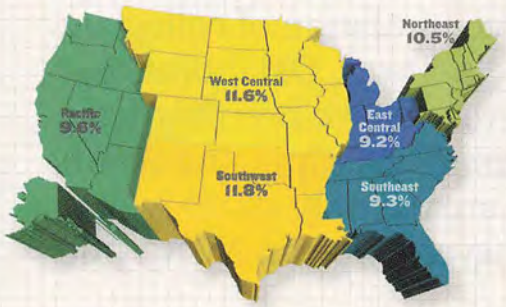
NBA

The West is home to not only the best teams but also the most viewers: '03 ratings in the Pacific region were 40% higher than the U.S. average.



MLB

The average viewership for '03 was 2.7% of U.S. households (2.9 million), a slight improvement over '02 but still 1% off 1993's numbers.



NFL

America is *always* ready for some football, and on average 10.3% of U.S. households (11.1 million) were tuned into a pro game each week in '03, making it the most watched sport.

SOURCE: NEILSEN

College Champs

California, with 25 Division I schools, rises above the rest in the alltime accumulation of collegiate laurels. Texas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania have been big-time players; Mississippi and South Dakota are the only states whose schools haven't won an NCAA title

NCAA Division I Basketball Titles

DAMIAN STROHMEYER

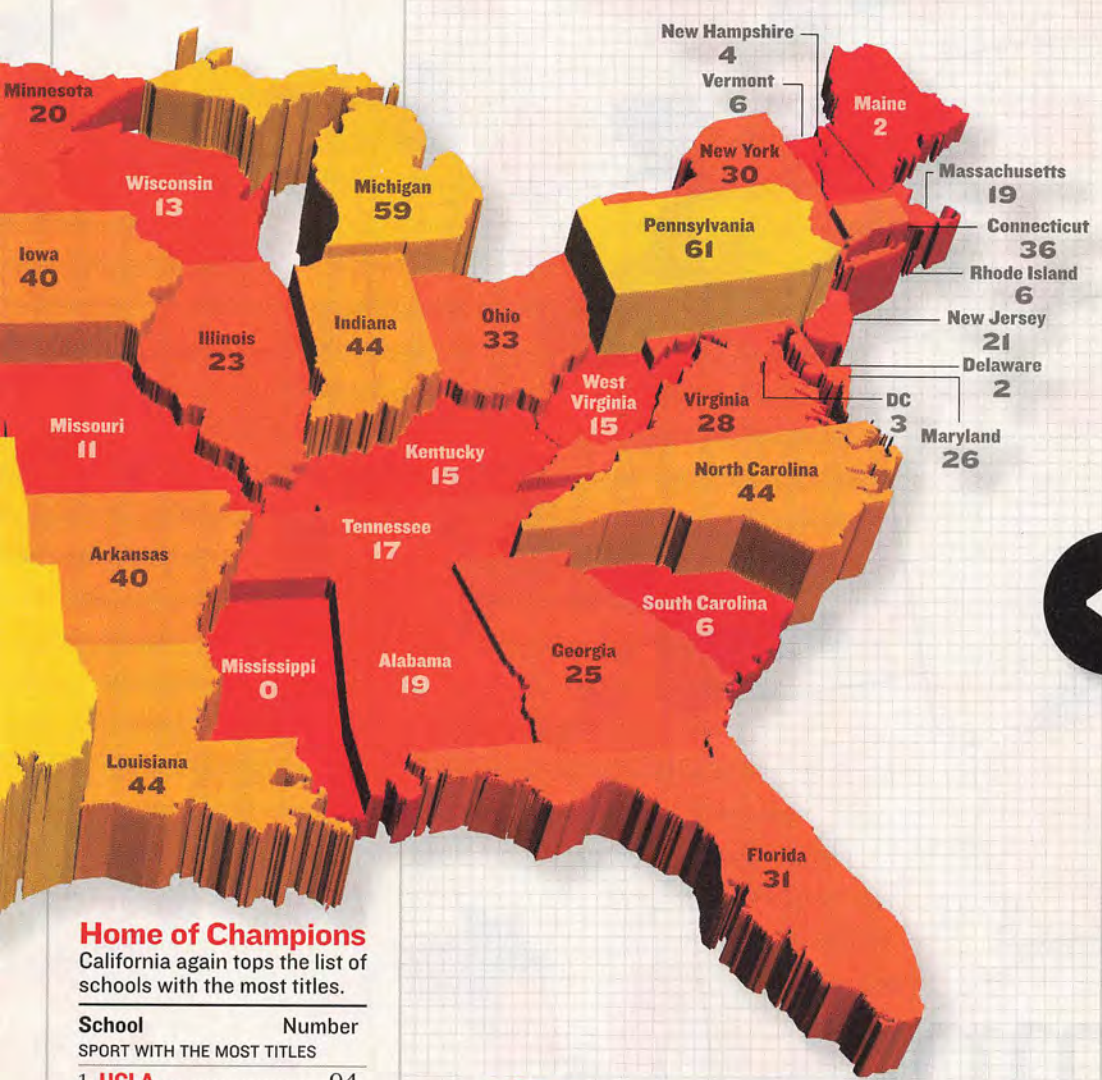
These totals are for both men and women, so Tennesseans can thank **Pat Summitt** *(right)* for all six of its titles. If you can't recall Wyoming's cutting down the nets, you're not alone. The NIT was once the most prominent postseason tournament, and in 1943 the Cowboys beat Georgetown in the NCAAs while St. John's won the NIT.

NCAA Division I Titles, All Sports

While football and basketball get the most airtime, they're not the sports that fill trophy cases. Anson Dorrance's North Carolina women's soccer team has brought nearly twice as many titles (17) to the state as its noted basketball teams (9). Wrestling (38) and golf (11) have given Oklahoma more titles than its football teams (7). The sport that has brought the most titles to Nebraska? Gymnastics (8).

California's domination derives from its mastery of all sports. The success of UCLA basketball (11 titles) and USC baseball (12) certainly helps, but more significant is its success in sports that reflect its climate and culture: tennis (64), volleyball (46), water polo (38) and swimming (29).

Some states are truly dependent on one school or sport. In New Jersey, Princeton's golf and lacrosse teams have collected all of the state's 21 titles. Oregon's and Arkansas's totals consist almost entirely of track and field and cross-country titles. Iowa's count is boosted by its 30 wrestling crowns. And without the seven rifle titles won by the Nanooks of the University of Alaska–Fairbanks *(above)*, our 49th state would be left out in the cold.

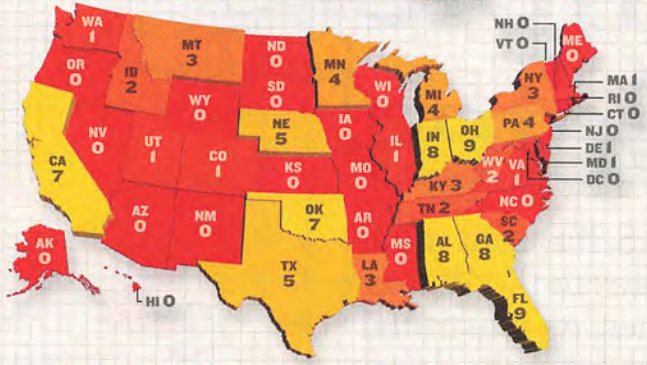


Home of Champions

California again tops the list of schools with the most titles.

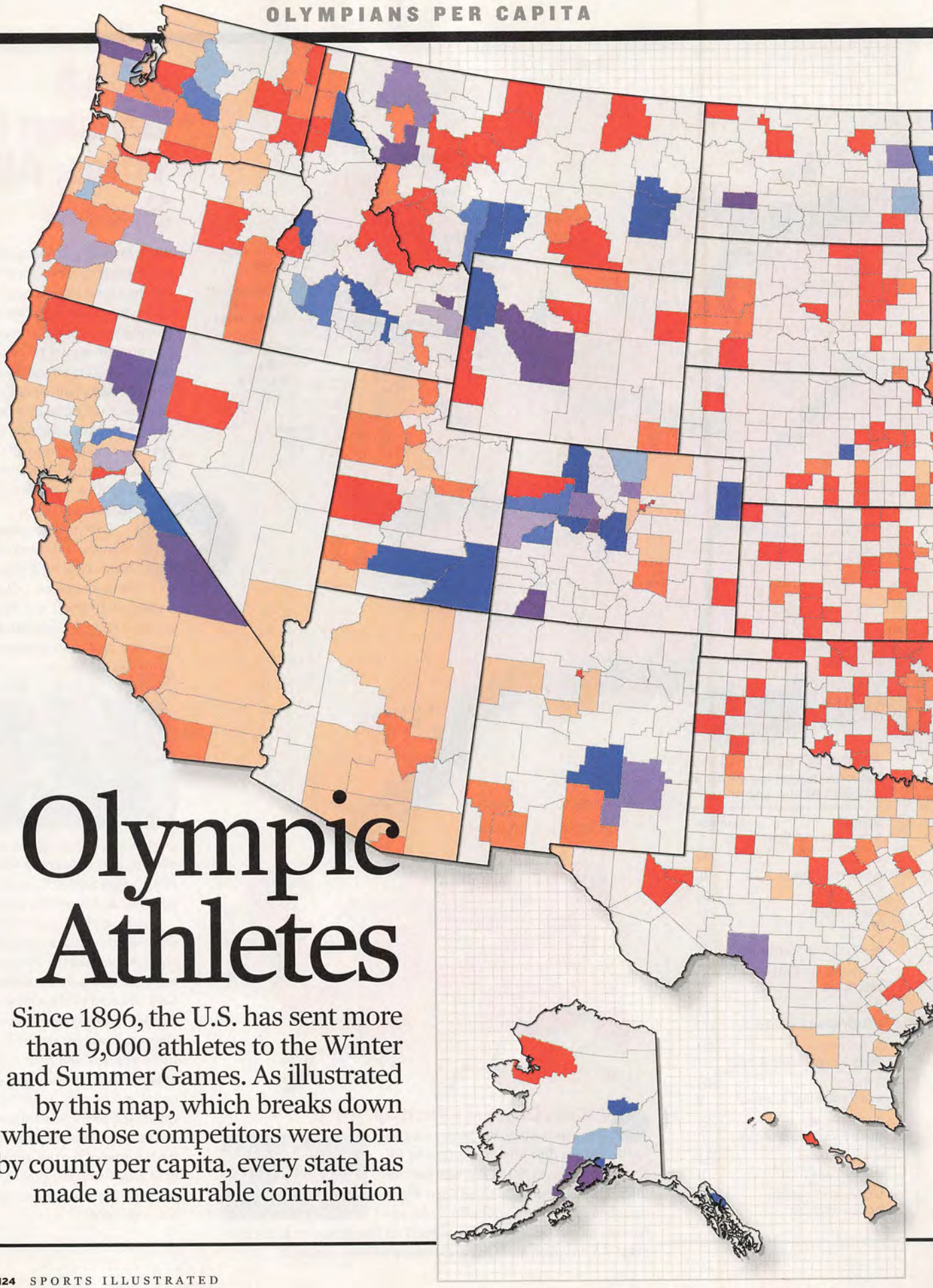
School	Number
SPORT WITH THE MOST TITLES	
1. UCLA	94
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL	18
2. Stanford	89
MEN'S TENNIS	17
3. USC	87
MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	26
4. Oklahoma State	45
WRESTLING	32
5. LSU	41
WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD	13
6. Arkansas	40
MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD	17
7. Texas	38
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	9
8. Michigan	33
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	11
9. Penn State	31
MEN'S GYMNASTICS	11
10. North Carolina	30
WOMEN'S SOCCER	17

MARVIN E. NEWMAN (STEPHENS); UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-FAIRBANKS



NCAA Division I Football Titles

Back in the day, the power was up north. Before 1961 **Minnesota** (led by QB **Sandy Stephens** in '60, *right*) won four AP titles, but the South has since risen. Florida schools, which had not won a title before Miami's in 1983, now have eight. This listing also includes Division I-AA, in which Montana and Idaho won their crowns.



Olympic Athletes

Since 1896, the U.S. has sent more than 9,000 athletes to the Winter and Summer Games. As illustrated by this map, which breaks down where those competitors were born by county per capita, every state has made a measurable contribution

ROSS POWERS VERMONT

JUSTIN GATLIN NEW YORK

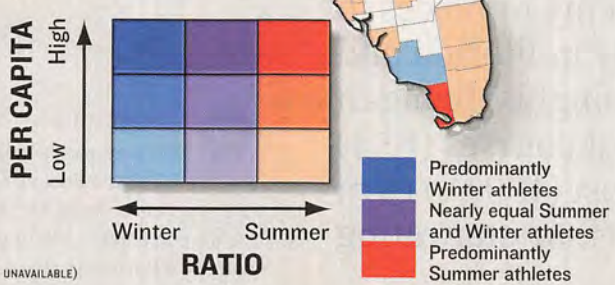
Hot and Cold Spots

Minnesota has several talent-rich counties. But neighboring Hennepin, which includes Minneapolis, and Ramsey, with St. Paul within its borders, have produced a whopping 108 Winter Olympians combined. Hennepin's 60 tied for the most of any county (with Middlesex in Massachusetts). Essex County, N.Y., home of two-time Winter Games host Lake Placid, has produced 32 Winter Olympians. That dark blue spot in New Mexico is tiny Lincoln County, where 2002 women's skeleton gold medalist Tristan Gale was born.

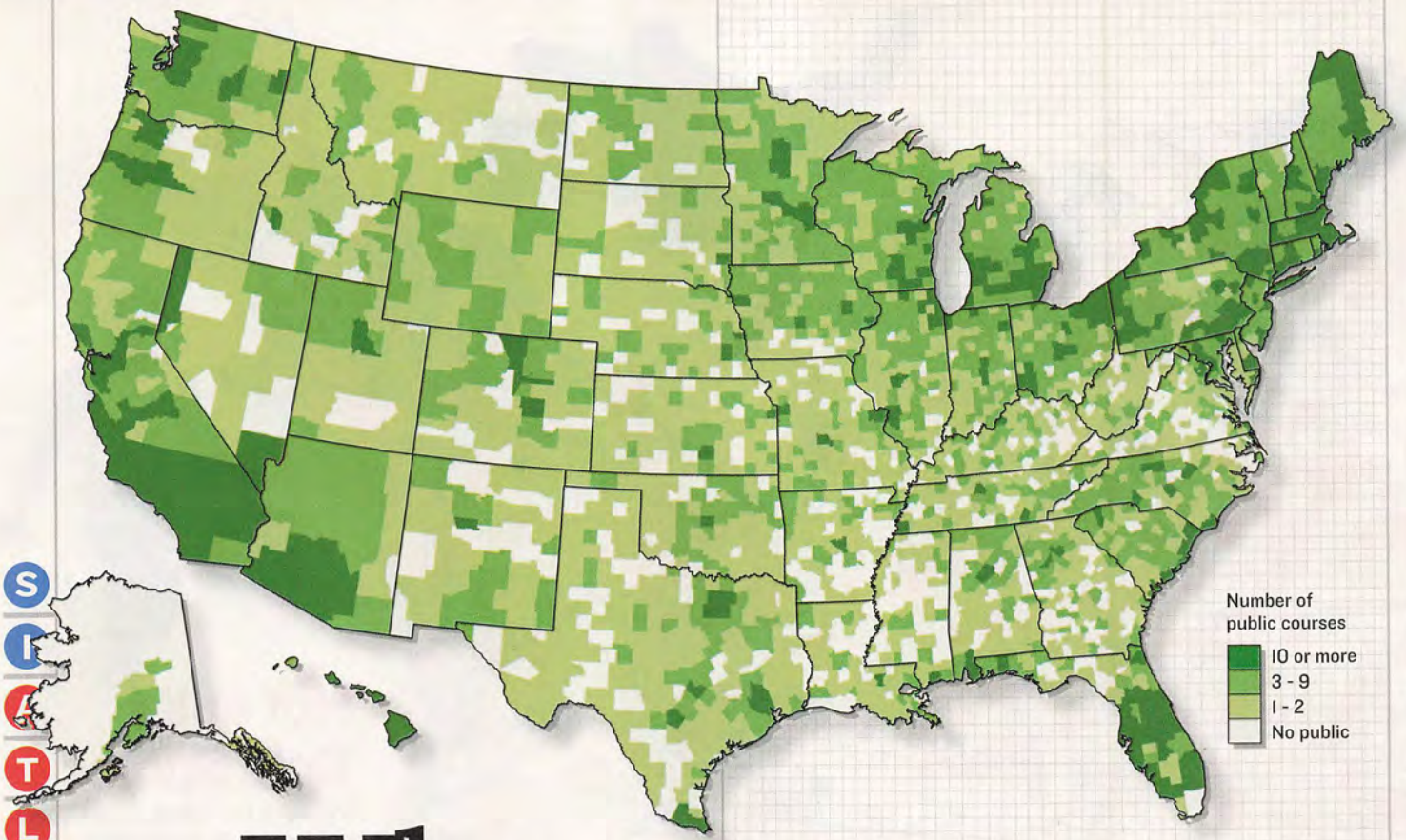
Every state has produced at least one Summer Olympian, including Alaska, which has had seven athletes: three rowers, including 1984 gold medalist Kris Thorsness, a runner, a discus thrower, a wrestler and a team handball player. The county that has produced the most Summer Olympians is Los Angeles County in California (population: 9.5 million), with 425.

KEY Shades of blue correspond to a high proportion of Winter Olympians from each county and shades of red a high proportion of Summer Olympians. The purple shades indicate a close ratio of Winter to Summer athletes in counties that have sent competitors to both Olympiads. White indicates no Olympians.

SOURCE: USOC (THE BIRTHPLACES OF SOME 2,000 OLYMPIANS WERE UNAVAILABLE)



AL TIELEMANS (POWERS); IAN WALDIE/GETTY IMAGES (GATLIN)



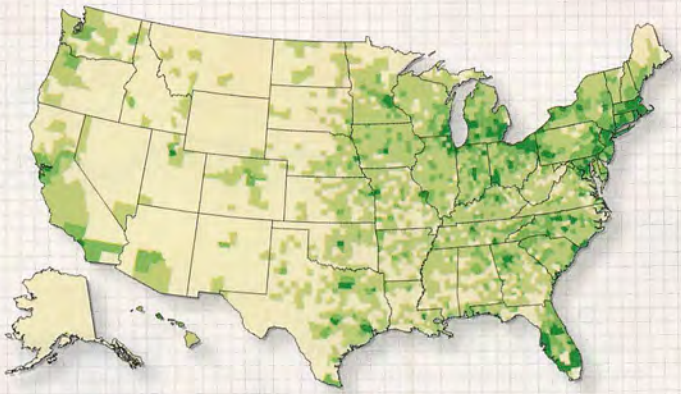
SI ATLAS

Where The Courses Are

With 15,827 golf courses in the U.S. there are plenty of places to play, most notably in Florida and California. Surprisingly, Michigan has the third-most courses (854) and the second most (109) to earn *Golf Magazine*'s four-star rating

Public Courses by County

Oregonians love golf, especially around Portland and Eugene, and the public has access to most of the state's great courses. But while those dark green sections are home to Pumpkin Ridge and Sunriver, Oregon's crown jewels are found farther down the coast in Bandon, home to Pacific Dunes (No. 2 in *Golf Magazine*'s public-course ratings) and Bandon Dunes (No. 7). The top-rated course? Pebble Beach (Calif.).



Courses per Square Mile

Ohio may appear to be chock-full of courses, but 166 of the Buckeye State's 762 facilities are nine-hole courses. That's 22%, or roughly double the percentage of short courses in Florida. The country's Northeast megalopolis is where you'll find the greatest density of courses, but California is catching up with 30 new courses under construction, the most of any state.

Courses per 100 sq. miles
3.0 and above
1.0 - 2.9
0.2 - 0.9
Below 0.2

WE'VE JUST RAISED THE BAR.

SI ATLAS

Sports Illustrated

Altered States

If you are what you play, sports is its own country

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HENDRIX

WAY
MARINERA
ER KNIEVEL
ONTAINIA
THE BLUE GRASS STATE
DOC RIVERS
PICABO ST.
Grizzlyland
DUSTY ROADS
MT. BLEIER
RULON GARDENS
MT. GRAZIANO
MPING ON CURTAIN
DON KINGDOM
STOCKTOWN
UTEGOSLAVIA
MT. COLAVITO
SCANDALNAVIA
7
SIERRAS
MT. BALBOA
OLD TARKANIA
FOUR POINTER
NASHVILLE
SUDDEN DEATH VALLEY
MT. MARCIANO
MARVALBUQUERQUE
NEW TEELAND
TRIPOLAAAY
DE LA JOLLA
UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS
INCOMPLETE PASO
SAN FERNANDO
WILLIAMSBERG

N E ' S W O
L JAXICO
FUNGO
RNIKOVA
MIKE MILLER'S CROSSING
BORNEO
THE RED SEA
SAYERSVILLE
CHAMBER LAND
NIGHT'S ANDING
MLANDERRY
FRED ACRES
THE ADMIRALTY
JACK DEL RIO
HIRBEKISTAN
MOSSCOW
HERB'S BROOK
DEEP OUT
EH LEAGUE
Favre, Favre Away
BEERCANNES
Big Blue
LOMBARDY
MELEESIA
SPARTA
HURON
DECK
CUBLIN
UNWILLINGHAM
SULTANATE
FRYEDONIA
GABLEDON
ERNIE'S BANKS
RIVER JORDAN
FIGHTING IRE-LAND
PURDON'T
ROLEN HEIGHTS
JORDAN
Stanthemanistan
THE MIZZOU
ST. PET
ALIBAMA
BIRDUE
SECRETARIA
VOLHALLA
ST. OOPS
Switzer Land
SOOEEYDEN
CROOMATIA
VICKSB
HOLYFIELDS
BEAR COUNTRY
MANNINGSLAND
OLE MISS
BOJACKSONVILLE
SUPEROOMINICA
SAINT LOSERS
NEW URB
ROCKET CITY
CHARLIE WATERS
Gol

R L D
WEST SOXANY
NORTH KARIYA
THE NOR'WOODS
ERUZIONIA
SAN FRANFISKO
UPPER SOXANY
Miracle on ICELAND
HUROUT
SOXANY
AUER TOWN
SAIL'EM
BERMANY
YUKONN
BOSSTON
HOFFA'S END
EL TUNA
PATERNSYLVANIA
UNHAPPY VALLEY
MEAN JOE'S GREEN
ROETHLISBURGH
BOOSANTA
LOST ANGELOS
JURGENST ON
ZONE D
WEST JERRY
NO BALI
LAXLAND
GRANT'S HILL
VALVANIA
EARNDAL3
FOUR CORNERS
BALLCOACHAMORE
MADANASCAR
WOODS HOLES
THE HERSCHELLS
SOUTH BOSSTON
San Marino
THE TENNIS CHANNEL
NEW SHAQISTAN
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GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS

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Chrysler Financial

BUCKLE UP

THE ALL-NEW DODGE DAKOTA. With the only V8 under $20,000,* the all-new Dakota is proof that real muscle can be real affordable. It can easily tow over 7,000 lbs†—that's 3,000 lbs more than some of the competition—and pumps out best-in-class available torque. Step inside Dakota and you'll even find best-in-class interior room‡ Put it all together and you'll see, no other mid-size pickup does as much heavy lifting. For more information, visit dodge.com or call 800-4ADODGE.

*As shown $30,496. MSRPs exclude tax. Manual transmission required. Late availability. †Maximum towing capacity is 7,050 lbs when properly equipped.

‡Based on the latest competitive information available at printing. Dodge Accessories by Mopar shown.

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BUCKLE UP

THE ALL-NEW 2005 DODGE DAKOTA. IT'S A LOT MORE TRUCK.

- More refined ride and handling
- All-new independent front "coil-over" shock suspension is standard on both 4x2 and 4x4 models
- Added safety features
- All-new advanced driver and front passenger air bags*
- All-new optional supplemental side-curtain air bags
- All-new rear head restraints
- Seating for six, when properly equipped (Quad Cab®)
- Optional premium audio—six speakers, amp with 276 watts of power
- Optional UConnect™ Hands-Free Communication System
- Optional SIRIUS Satellite Radio
- Optional heated cloth or leather-trimmed bucket seats
- Standard 3.7-liter Magnum® V6 engine
- Two optional 4.7-liter Magnum V8 engines
  - Best-in-class torque†
  - Best-in-class maximum available towing capacity†
- 1,730 lb payload capacity (Club Cab®)
- Only truck in its class with optional full-time 4WD transfer case
- New Getrag six-speed manual transmission‡
- Stronger, more durable frame with hydroform technology
- 22-gallon fuel tank
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- Optional 17" chrome-clad aluminum wheels

Create your own Dakota at dodge.com

GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS

DODGE

BUCKLE UP

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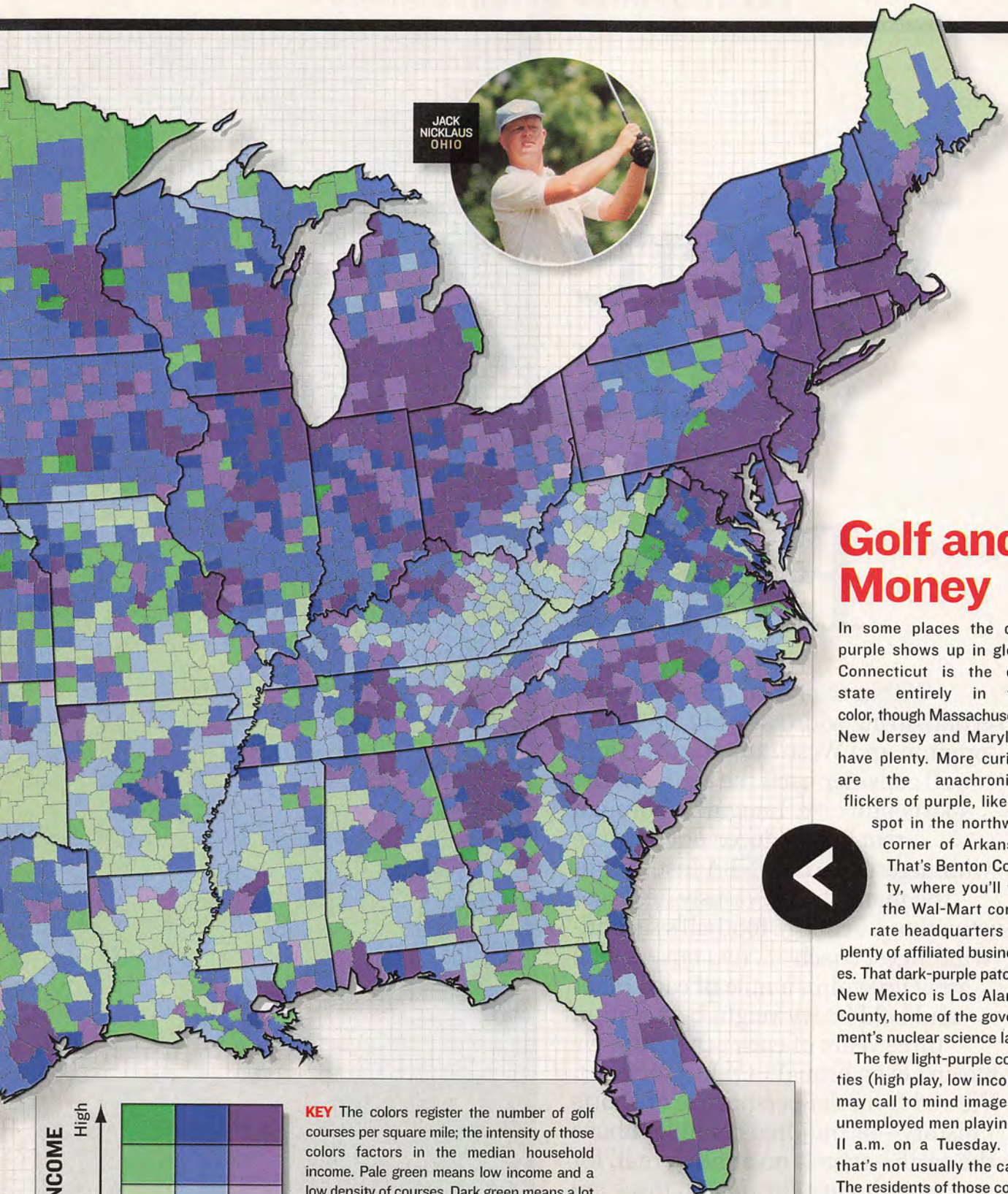
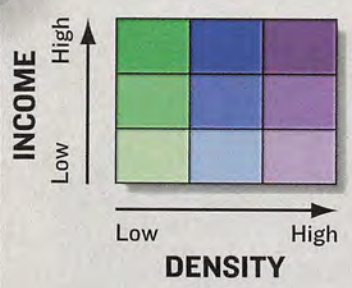
*Always sit properly in the seat with the seat belt fastened. Always observe the passenger air bag indicator lamp to determine if the OCS classification is appropriate. Children 12 and under should always be in a backseat in Dakota Quad Cab or in the front seat only with the passenger air bag turned off on Dakota Club Cab models, while correctly using an infant seat or child restraint system or the seat belt positioned correctly for the child's age and weight. †Based on a properly equipped vehicle and the latest competitive information available at the time of printing. ‡Late availability. SIRIUS, the dog logo and SIRIUS stream names are logos and trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio, Inc. UConnect is a trademark of DaimlerChrysler Corporation.



Golf and Money

In some places the dark purple shows up in globs: Connecticut is the only state entirely in that color, though Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maryland have plenty. More curious are the anachronistic flickers of purple, like the spot in the northwest corner of Arkansas. That's Benton County, where you'll find the Wal-Mart corporate headquarters and plenty of affiliated businesses. That dark-purple patch in New Mexico is Los Alamos County, home of the government's nuclear science lab.

The few light-purple counties (high play, low income) may call to mind images of unemployed men playing at 11 a.m. on a Tuesday. But that's not usually the case. The residents of those counties may well have time for golf because they're university students: Brazos County is home to Texas A&M, and Lincoln Parish is home to Louisiana Tech.



KEY The colors register the number of golf courses per square mile; the intensity of those colors factors in the median household income. Pale green means low income and a low density of courses. Dark green means a lot of money but not many courses. At the other extreme, light purple identifies low-income and a high number of courses per square mile. Dark purple means there's plenty of money and plenty of places to play.

- High income, few golf courses
- High income, average number of courses
- High income, high number of courses

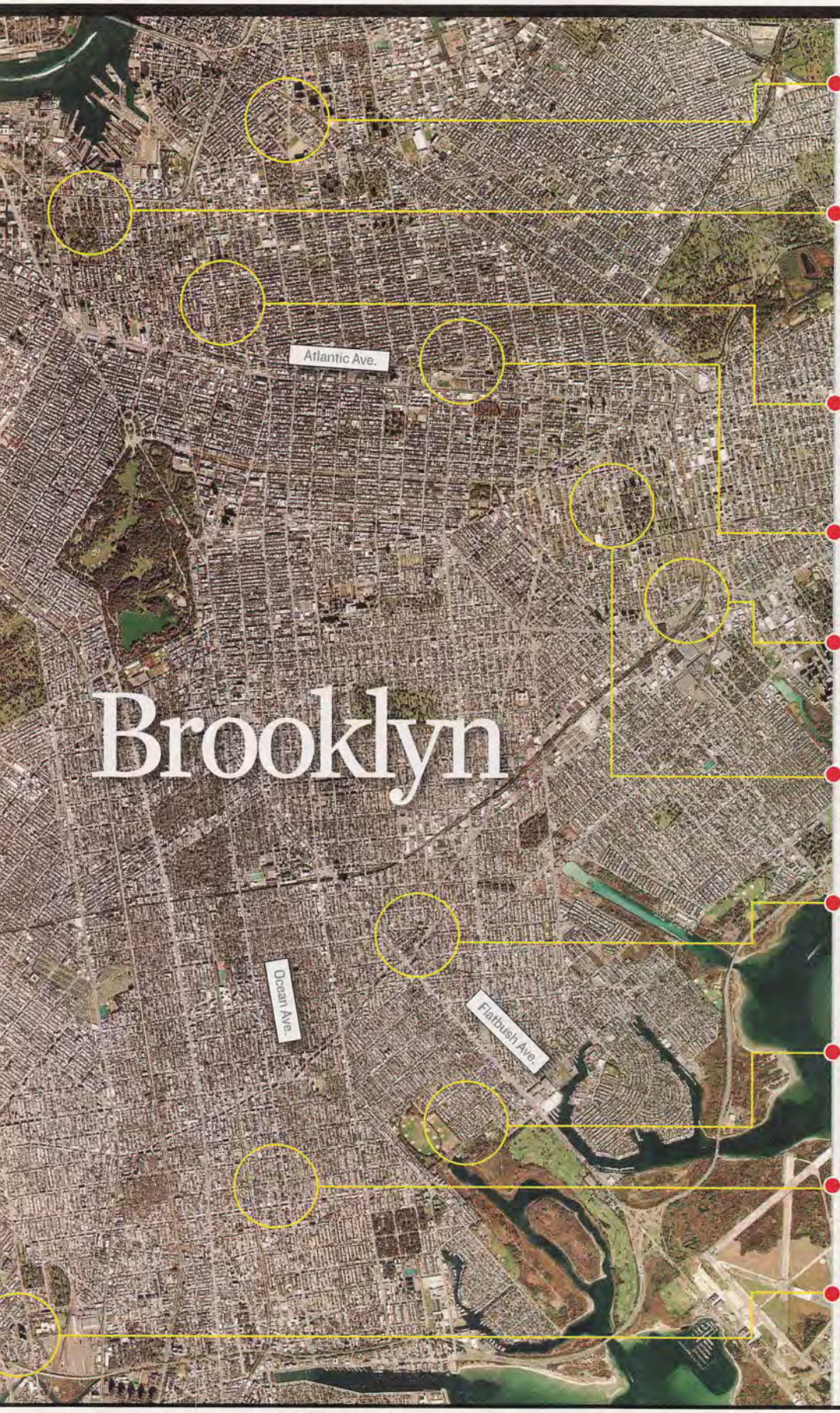
WALTER IOOSS JR. (NICKLAUS); JACQUELINE DUVOISIN (TREVINO)

SI ATLAS

Where Stars are Born

Within their own cities, they are second-string addresses, but Brooklyn, Compton and West Tampa each might well consider itself the center of the sports universe. Imagine a borough that has produced not only the winningest coach in NBA history, but the man who previously held that distinction. . . college football's second-winningest coach . . . two boxers who grew up within a mile of each other and held heavyweight belts within three years of each other. And we haven't even brought up Joe Torre yet. Viewed from the perspective of sports history—or hundreds of miles above the earth—there's no arguing that, for producing elite talent, these are America's most fertile breeding grounds.

Satellite Images Courtesy
DIGITALGLOBE



Red Auerbach
LYNCH STREET
Onetime winningest NBA coach played on fenced-in rooftop court of P.S. 122 in Williamsburg.

Bernard and Albert King
NORTH OXFORD STREET
Fort Hamilton High grads three years apart, first-round picks of the New Jersey Nets four years apart; Bernard's been stumping for Brooklyn arena for Nets.

Connie Hawkins
LEXINGTON AVENUE
Before becoming an NBA Hall of Famer, he was a playground legend on the blacktops of Bed-Stuy.

Lenny Wilkens
REID AVENUE
Alltime winningest NBA coach didn't make Boys High team until his senior year.

Riddick Bowe
LOTT AVENUE
Raised a mile from Mike Tyson, Bowe stayed straight, graduating from Thomas Jefferson High.

Mike Tyson
AMBOY STREET
Heavyweight champ's tortuous path began with lawless upbringing on Brownsville streets.

Chris Mullin
TROY AVENUE
NBA Dream Teamer in '92 led Xaverian High to state championship after transferring from Manhattan's Power Memorial.

Joe Torre
AVENUE T
Giants fan when Subway Series were the rule; won his own as Yanks' skip in 2000.

Joe Paterno
EAST 23RD STREET
Signal-caller at Brooklyn Prep grew up in same neighborhood as Vince Lombardi.

Sandy Koufax
BENSONHURST
Known for hoops prowess at Lafayette High; only a bit player on the '55 Dodgers title team.

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SI ATLAS

Compton

Larry Allen
CENTENNIAL HIGH

As 10-year-old in Compton, All-Pro lineman was stabbed 12 times protecting younger brother during a fight.

Reggie Smith
CENTENNIAL HIGH

Red Sox and Dodgers All-Star was slugging shortstop and star defensive back in high school.

Charles Dumas
CENTENNIAL HIGH

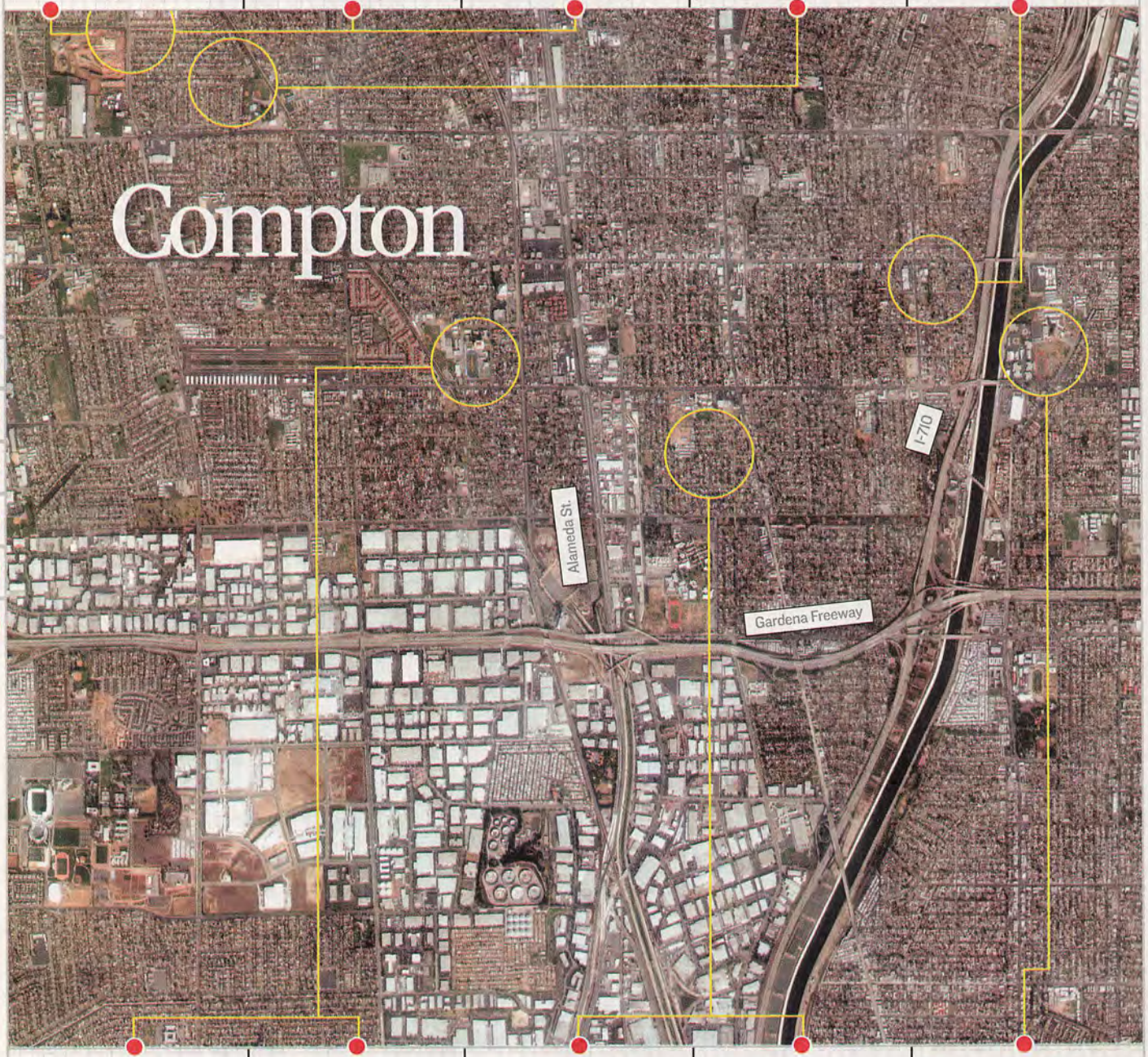
At '56 Olympic trials became first athlete to high-jump seven feet; won gold at that year's Melbourne Olympics.

Lonnie Smith
WEST PIRU STREET

All-America outfielder at Centennial High was third pick in '74 draft, spent 17 years in the majors.

Williams Sisters
EAST COMPTON PARK

With Dad's urging, Serena and Venus got start on courts at corner of Atlantic Avenue and Compton Boulevard.



Duke Snider
COMPTON HIGH

Three-sport star at Compton High knocked out teammate Pete Rozelle's teeth in basketball practice.

Pete Rozelle
COMPTON HIGH

As student journalist, future NFL p.r. man turned commish helped Snider get big pub for a no-hitter.

Tayshaun Prince
EAST BENNETT STREET

Dominguez High teammate of Tyson Chandler's in '97–98; mom Diane still lives in his childhood home.

Dennis Johnson
BURRIS AVENUE

Five-time NBA All-Star rode the pine at Dominguez High, then got game in San Pedro summer league.

Tyson Chandler
DOMINGUEZ HIGH

As freshman made daily 132-mile round trip from San Bernardino before moving to nearby Buena Park.

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Fred McGriff
N. DALE MABRY HIGHWAY

As a boy, Jefferson High standout frequented the Reds' spring training camp a mile from his house.

Don Garlits
NORTH BOULEVARD

King of drag racing got his start hot-rodding on dirt track near Hillsborough Avenue and Anderson Road.

Dwight Gooden
HILLSBOROUGH HIGH

With Belmont Heights teammate Floyd Youmans, reached title game of Senior League World Series in '79.

Gary Sheffield
HILLSBOROUGH HIGH

With Belmont Heights teammate Derek Bell, reached title game of 1980 Little League World Series.

S I A T L A S

Tony La Russa
JEFFERSON HIGH

Born in Ybor City, he was a teammate of Lou Piniella's on American Legion Post 248 club in the early 1960s.

Luis Gonzalez
JEFFERSON HIGH

Played second base alongside first baseman Tino Martinez on Jefferson's 1985 state semifinalist.

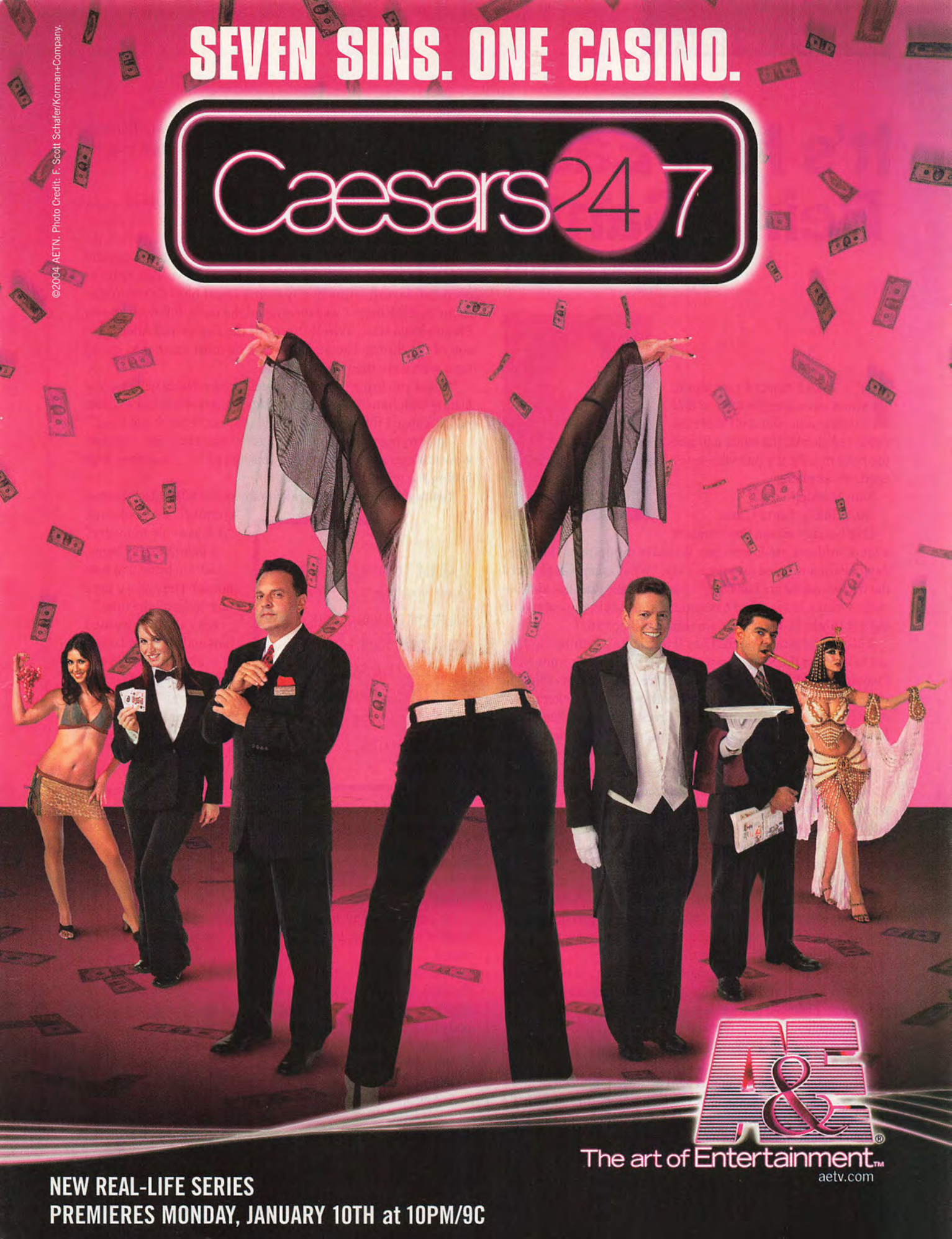
Lou Piniella
SAINT CONRAD STREET

Basketball and baseball star at Jesuit High; parents live next to diamond christened Lou Piniella Park.

Tino Martinez
KATHLEEN STREET

Followed McGriff as Jefferson High first baseman; Division II All-America at University of Tampa.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROBERT BECK; AP (2); BILL KOSTROUN/AP; MARK GOLDMAN/ICON SMI; BILL FRAKES; ALLEN KEE/WIREIMAGE.COM; DAVID E. KLUTHO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It's Not Easy Being Santa

by Rick Reilly

IT'S THAT time of year again, when our thoughts turn to that lovable plus-sized elf with the ruddy red cheeks, the white hair and the belly of jelly, the one who never needs an airplane.

John Madden.

No, actually, Santa Claus.

This holiday season the morals of a lot of athletes are lower than flounder droppings. The other day I heard a worried announcer say, "What must kids think of the way we adults are behaving?" But you really can't ask kids because when a kid is asked a question by an adult, the only thing the kid thinks is, How *huge* are this man's nostrils?

Kids trust Santa, though. They'll tell Santa anything. So I set out to conduct the Santa Sports Survey. Disguised as Saint Nick, I would spend 90 minutes at each of three Boys & Girls Clubs in metro Denver. I loaded the trunk with toys and trinkets, borrowed a Santa suit from the Cherry Creek Mall and called Susen Mesco of Amerevents.com, which runs one of the best Santa Schools in the country.

"Don't *play* Santa," she advised. "*Be* Santa."

She also said something odd. "Never ask what the children want for Christmas." Huh? "Ask, *What would you like to tell Santa?* Because a lot of times, what they want has nothing to do with toys. For instance, what will you do if a child says, 'Santa, I want you to bring my mommy back to life'?"

(Silence)

"You say, 'Sorry, Santa can't do that. But you know what? Sometimes our sleigh flies so high, we pass right by heaven. What do you want to tell your mom, and I'll give her a message.' "

I wasn't sure I was ready for this.

The clubs were all in poor sections of the city. At each club I was given a room and about 70 squirmy kids, ages six to 10. And right away I learned something—I make a lousy Santa.

"Who are you?" one girl asked.

"Since when does Santa drive a sedan?" a boy said, suspiciously.

"Uh, that hurts," another girl said as I tried to tickle her.

One kid wanted to know how old I was. "Just turned 1,310," I said. He went Frisbee-eyed. I said, "I know, I don't look that old."

"No, you *do*," he said.

One little girl wanted to know where Rudolph was. "Rudolph pulled a hammy," I said. "This year the sleigh is going to be guided by Sylvester, from the temp agency."

(Blank stare)

I kept trying to ask my state-of-sports questions, but I might as well have been asking about pork-belly futures. Not one of them knew about Barry Bonds's BALCO connection. In fact, if I were running baseball, I'd be worried. Not one kid had a favorite ballplayer. Not one of them wanted a bat or glove. Few of them even had favorite pros in any sport: Local hero Carmelo Anthony of the Nuggets was mentioned the most, followed by two Philadelphia stars, Terrell Owens of the Eagles and Allen Iverson of the Sixers. The athletes the kids most wanted to spend time with were their dads.

"Could you bring me a fishing pole so my daddy will take me fishing with him?" one little girl asked. Another wanted a soccer ball, " 'cause I think my dad would play soccer with me then."

I kept trying to hit them with survey questions like, "Do you view athletes as role models in this age of . . . ," and they kept hitting me with real life.

"Santa, for Christmas could you make the bill collectors stop coming?" one boy said. "It makes my mom cry."

> I kept trying to hit them with sports survey questions, and the kids kept hitting me with real life. "Santa, could you bring us a new house?"

A little girl said, "Santa, could you bring us a new house? The one we have now leaks all the time."

Lots of kids wanted hats and shoes and coats. "I want clothes," said one boy. *What kind?* "The warm kind," he said.

Another kid wanted to be an NBA star and make "a million dollars."

"What would you spend it on?" I asked.

"Doctors," she said, "for my cousin. She's four. She has cancer."

I told one seven-year-old boy, "Last year I came by and you were still awake, so I had to go do Dallas first until you fell asleep. So this year I want you to go right to sleep."

And he said, "That's not true, Santa. Last year you forgot my house."

I learned nothing new about sports, but plenty about how spoiled my life was, how Scroogish my spirit, how narrow my vision.

One somber eight-year-old girl was making her first visit to the club. She'd been sent from another state to live with her uncles because there were "issues" at home. She looked as if somebody had just sat on her birthday cake.

"What can Santa make you this Christmas?" I asked her.

She turned and looked at me with huge, hopeful eyes.

"Happy?" she asked.

Be Santa. □

If you have a comment for Rick Reilly, send it to **reilly@siletters.com**

PETER READ MILLER